



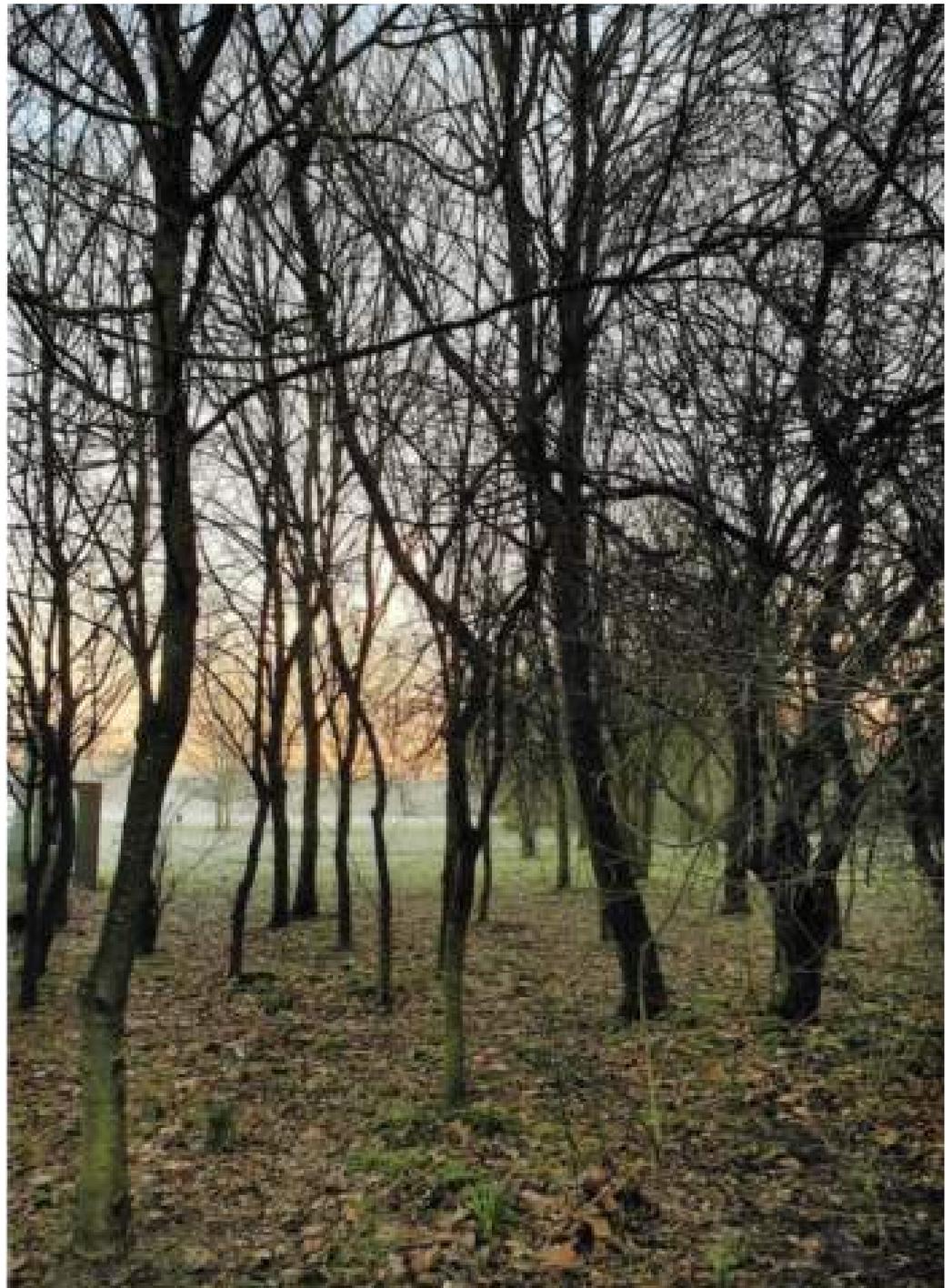
**ONLINE
EDITION**

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Our March
Weekend:
picture special
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*The winning photograph in the Eileen Bowler competition.
For the full results see Page 4*

EMERGENCY MEASURES DURING CURRENT CRISIS

- 1. Whilst the office is closed post cannot be read, so any postal booking **MUST** be accompanied by an email giving full details, i.e. name/address/event/date/number of tickets/amount paid etc.**
- 2. Will ALL Presidents and Secretaries please ensure that any message cascaded to WIs via their Adviser are sent on to ALL members of their WI.**



Dear Members

A tide of emotions: but there must be HOPE



Having experienced great **relief** on our return to the UK in early March, after surviving a once-in-a-life-time sandstorm and a Covid-19 outbreak at a nearby hotel, I was looking forward to a full diary of WI events.

Normality was the order of the day. I attended Elstead WI's very special 100th birthday celebration and enjoyed, with around 40 Surrey members, the Spring residential weekend at Denman. I drafted my May column, a light-hearted missive, focussing on the celebration of May Day: Maypoles, Morris Dancing and Monty Modlyn, and even a little licentiousness and debauchery (relating to the origins of May Day celebrations, I assure you). I then moved on to address the VE Day commemorations, the role of WI members in WW2, their significant contribution to the war effort and post-war, as they looked to the promised future with an aim to change the world. I finished with an exhortation to members to support climate change initiatives, that have "rallied the population in a way that has not been seen since WW2" (Caroline Lucas MP, March 2020). I find it very hard to believe that I wrote this as late as mid-March!

Can you recall your last 'normal' WI en-

counter? On Wednesday, March 11, I went to a very well attended Emlyn Down Group Meeting, and what a very special day it was. We made a mosaic for the garden, engaged in relaxed conversation, shared a fish and chip lunch and participated in a very well organised meeting — thank you, it was a lovely day. Even a few hugs were exchanged. Maybe the last for some time, for some!

Over the next few days **disbelief** set in as the implications of Covid-19 struck, like a tsunami. Our world was turned inside-out, or rather, outside-in. Only four days later we were cancelling the Annual Council Meeting, then very quickly the demise of very many Surrey WI events, including Worplesdon WI's Centenary and Bronzefield Bees' 10th birthday, followed by a torrent of cancellations which included all Surrey WI and SFWI events until the end of June.

Reality now began to kick in. Could this be happening? The amount of work involved in hibernating the Federation kept me focussed for the first month and insulated me from the reality of what was happening in the outside world. A new, strange vocabulary emerged, of furloughing (formally a leave of absence granted to a member of the services or a missionary) and of shielding and social distancing. Our personal challenge was to address protocols, to work out which category we, our family and friends fitted into, and to restructure our daily lives accordingly.

Reality has become **uncertainty**. Nothing is clear, nothing is definite. We are in a constantly changing world where the goalposts move daily. Even the familiar things of life have changed their function. My handbag has become a receptacle for keys. The front door has not been unlocked for a month, my car's boot is where the delivery driver leaves the food, which I obsessively spray with disinfectant (a freebie from Hampton Court Flower Show) and leave to decontaminate.

Amidst all this has been the arrival of Spring, and with it hope, but also **guilt**. Covid-19 has

given us the gift of time, and with it more of a sense of awareness. It been hard not to celebrate the idyllic breaking of spring. To walk in the garden, to hear the dawn chorus uninterrupted by the drone of traffic. The sunsets seem more perfect. Is this a direct result of the drastic fall in air pollution? When was the last time the trees burst into leaf, silhouetted against a sky devoid of vapour trails? **Guilt** then leads to a deep sense of **grief** — for those lost, both known and unknown. **Grief** in being isolated from family and friends.

Grief for time lost, never to be reclaimed. The yearning to hug one's children and grandchildren, to spend time with those who are most dear to us, and the question, that sits in the shadows, when will we see them again?

Guilt re-emerges. Why them and not me? What can I do to make a difference? However hard it is, the single most important thing we can all do at this stage is to **stay at home**. Inaction seems the exact opposite of what the WI is renowned for, but for the moment this is by far the best thing we, as individuals, can do.

But there is **hope**; there must be **hope**. In the words of the 14th Century Dame Julian of Norwich (who you may be familiar with if you, like me, have been avidly reading Elly Griffiths' books, inspired by her literary lunch) and who, even though she witnessed the ravages of the Black Death, believed that: "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

And finally, in the words of Queen Elizabeth II, a member of the WI for 77 years:

**"We will be with our friends again;
we will be with our families again;
we will meet again."
(April 5, 2020).**

Take care and stay safe.

Carol A. Gartrell, Federation Chairman

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

SFWI, 6 Paris, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX. Tel: 01483 233230;

Email: info@surreyfedwi.org.uk or sfwi2dr@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.surreyfedwi.org.uk

Twitter: @SurreyFedWI

Facebook:

Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/surreyfedwi

Surrey WI News — Editor:

surreywinews@yahoo.co.uk (Please send delivery queries to the office, not the Editor);

Over to You:

surrey.selections@yahoo.co.uk

Webmaster: Debbie Turner

Denman Ambassador: Lesley Earl.

lesleyearlwi@hotmail.co.uk

The office is normally open from 10am to 3pm Tuesday-Thursday. Outside these hours please leave a message.

SWIN is designed/edited by June Green

PHOTOGRAPHS

PLEASE NOTE: The permission of the photographer and those appearing in photographs submitted for publication in Surrey WI News must be obtained as they may be used for publicity purposes and on social media, including our website. If you do not want your photograph used in this way please mark it "For use in SWIN only."

DISCLAIMER: The Surrey Federation of WIs does not endorse or take responsibility for advertisements for goods or services in Surrey WI News, which are sourced by the publishers and not by SFWI.



What's new from HQ theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Dear All: Circumstances permitting, towards the end of May we will be sending the following to all treasurers: 1.

Form for Additional Membership Fees; 2. Application Form for Independent Financial Examiners; 3. Confirmation of the Federation Public Liability Insurance if your WI has paid its contribution with membership fees earlier this year; 4. A list of additional speakers for the 2020 Year Book which should be passed to your programme planner. There may be additional items so please check the contents letter which comes with the pack.

Many Treasurers are now working on the accounts from an Excel spreadsheet which includes a financial statement. If, however, you still require two A4 copies of the financial statement, please let the office know and these will be posted to you.

If you are a treasurer and have not received any/all of the above, please contact the office urgently.

Also please remember to look at our website: www.surreyfedwi.org.uk where non-data protection information is posted. This saves the Federation postage as well as paper. —

Diane Sanderson

COMING UP (or not ...)

ALL SURREY FEDERATION EVENTS UP TO THE END OF MAY AND SOME IN JUNE HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. PLEASE CONSULT OUR WEBSITE WWW.SURREYFEDWI.ORG.UK AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES TO OTHER JUNE EVENTS AND BEYOND

Further details of events still going ahead are on Pages 9-10. New events added since last month are in GREEN

SFWI SKILLS

WILLOW BASKET MAKING: Tuesday, June 16, **CANCELLED**
COOKING FOR THE FREEZER (May 16) and **VEGETARIAN COOKERY** (June 20) **BOTH POSTPONED**

SFWI EVENTS

GET ON BOARD for **FREE LUNCH AT SFWI HQ:** (Saturday, June 20) **POSTPONED**

CRANLEIGH SHOW (June 28): **POSTPONED TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**, setup and judging **SEPTEMBER 12**. Please see our website for change to class 2 (courgettes substituted for asparagus). New closing date: **JULY 30**.

COACH TRIP TO BRIGHTON: Monday, June 29. Depart Guildford Spectrum 10.30am. Closing date: **May 15** [See Page 9]

SURREY AT DENMAN: July 10-12

CROQUET TASTER DAYS: Friday, July 10; Friday, August 28. Inc. coffee, Pimm's, lunch with wine, tea, cake, competitions and prizes. £45. Closing date: **May 22** [See Page 9]

NEW SPEAKER AUDITIONS (July 14), Godstone, **CANCELLED**

TEA WITH IVOR NOVELLO: (July 22) **POSTPONED to 2021**

EDENBRIDGE AND OXTED SHOW: (August Bank Holiday Weekend). **CANCELLED** WI class schedule for 2020 will be used for 2021 show — details on Page 8.

LITERARY LUNCH, Friday, September 18, Glenmore House, 6 The Crescent, Surbiton, KT6 4BN, two-course lunch, £35. Closing date: **June 12**. [See Page 9]

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL: Friday, December 11. £67 inclusive of Christmas lunch, tour of London lights, driver's tip. Coaches depart Banstead, Claygate, Guildford. Closing date: **June 19**. [See Page 10]

Here comes the science ...



MAY MEETING CANCELLED. MONDAY, JUNE 15 (unless notified otherwise): Professor Edd James, Associate Professor in Cancer Immunology, University of Southampton, will give a talk on his work. Meetings start at 2pm. £2 on the door inc. refreshments. All members/partners/ friends welcome.

Federation Camera Group



MEETINGS SUSPENDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Crafty Ladies



MAY MEETING CANCELLED: Unless advised otherwise, they will next meet on **Wednesday, July 1** at SFWI HQ to work at their own craft in the company of others, 11am-3pm. Visitors welcome (£3 charge), tea/coffee provided; bring a packed lunch.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Today Magazines, which publishes SWIN, has been unable to print this edition so it is only available on our website. Please bring it to your members' attention, if only to bring a touch of normality to their lives! It would also be appreciated if members with printers could print off a copy (a) for your own archives and (b) for members who do not have internet access and who will welcome their regular SWIN.



Rita's poster on show at gallery

BAGSHOT member Rita Freeman, who won a national WI competition to design a Word Art or calligraphy poster publicising NFWI-Wales' *Not In My Name* campaign to raise awareness of Violence Against Women, was invited to take part in an International Women's Day celebration at the Watts Gallery at Compton. Rita is pictured with her prizewinning poster which was on display. The gallery celebrated women's contribution to art with workshops, talks, performances, artwork and ceramic plates commemorating daring women in history.

Dementia Action Week

MAY 11-17 was to have been Dementia Action Week. However, with the coronavirus crisis playing havoc with our lives, suggested interaction with care homes etc. is now impossible. The Surrey Public Affairs Team would still like to encourage all our WIs to help combat loneliness, so perhaps when all this is over they can consider ways in which they can help.

Dementia is a scary time for all those involved. Research has shown that two-thirds of people with dementia feel isolated and lonely. Taking action to combat loneliness was a past resolution so we would urge all WIs and individual members to get involved where they can.

In future your WI might be able to hold a special interest group meeting in a care home and involve some of the residents. If you know someone with dementia, perhaps you could plan an activity with them — something they enjoy such as baking, going for a walk or just having a chat over a cuppa.

Have you heard of a twiddle muff? People with dementia often have restless hands and a knitted muff or blanket has bits and bobs like buttons and ribbons securely attached to help keep restless hands busy. If your craft group or members are interested in knitting, contact your local care homes or hospital and see if they take donations.

We would love to publicise your efforts on social media and in this magazine, so please email details and pictures (making sure you have permission to publish them) to SFWIPublicAffairs@gmail.com and surreywinews@yahoo.co.uk. For more ideas visit www.alzheimers.org.uk for a downloadable pack of things you can do or how you can join in. — **Dorinda Brittle (SFWI Public Affairs Team)**

EILEEN BOWLER COMPETITION: THE RESULTS

THE 2020 Eileen Bowler Competition was for a 5in. x 7in. colour photograph under the title *A Tree or Trees in Surrey*, taken since March 2019 and mounted in a 6in. x 8in. frame.

The competition attracted 37 entries and the winners/runners-up were: 1st: Claire Gardiner (Streatham Common); 2nd: Pat Crawford (Little Bookham); 3rd: Joan Wadkin (Croydon Crocuses). Claire's winning photo is this month's cover picture.



Highly Commended: Moira Allan (Maple Village), Betty Dominy (New Malden and Malden Manorettes), Helen Pattison (Oxshott Village), Rose Leach (Streatham), Eileen Hodder (Windlesham) and Jane Pittard (Croydon Crocuses).

The judge commented: "A varied collection of images and presentations. I was impressed and entertained by many of the submissions, of which several showed good technical and artistic ability. Congratulations to the top three and the six highly commended."



THE Cheshire Link Meriel Sexton asked about in last month's magazine is still going in at least two more cases.

Sheila Curling got in touch and told us that Beacon-Hill was twinned with Comberbach WI and they still write at Christmas.

"When I took over as President I carried on writing to their then president Lynn and we have continued ever since. We both write in November and send calendars of our respective areas and copies of county news, etc." says Sheila.

"We always hope to write more than one let-

The Cheshire connection

ter a year, but somehow it doesn't happen. I have never been to Cheshire but hope to make it one day as after all the years I feel I know Lynn. She usually writes four pages, both sides, and I do the same."

Daphne Mitchell also wrote to say that Lyne WI was allocated Brereton WI, near Holmes Chapel in rural Cheshire. Lyne was also a very small WI with only about nine members.

"My first correspondent was Pamela Jackson and after a couple of years we met up at my

home. We got on well, both being crafters," Daphne explains. When Pamela moved to Warwickshire she put Daphne in touch with two more Brereton ladies, Pat Firth and Hilda Meredith.

When Lyne closed, Daphne joined Chertsey. "We discovered that a Chertsey member had previously lived in Holmes Chapel and was fondly remembered by them."

Brereton WI closed last year; with an ageing membership they could not replace their officers. But all four continue to write. "I hope we will continue for as long as possible," says Daphne, now a member of Bagshot.



A reminder of happier days ...

BOOKHAM Butterflies' walking group and some canine companions picked a stunning day for a wonderful walk up Box Hill. They enjoyed a hot drink in the sunshine outside the National Trust café at the top before descending via a different route. The walking group has been meeting every Wednesday to take on different walks in the Bookham area, including Polesden Lacey, Sheepleas, and slightly further afield at Newlands Corner and St Martha's Hill. — **Jen Broh**

... and now for some light relief

"We are three to four weeks from knowing everyone's real hair colour."

"For years I have been meaning to stitch a tapestry cushion with the motto *Nothing is Ever What You Expect*. I think the time has come." — *Letters published in the Daily Telegraph.*

3Counties Science Group

The eye in the sky that keeps a close watch on Earth



IN FEBRUARY the 3Counties Science Group enjoyed a very interesting talk on *Monitoring the Environment from Space*, given by Robin Wilson, in which he explained how the data from satellite imaging is interpreted and can be applied to monitoring plant growth, air pollution and more.

There are many satellites orbiting the earth, some launched by Surrey Satellite Technology, some by NASA and others. Our speaker concentrated on one of them, Landsat 8, which is fitted with telescopic cameras and flies over every two weeks, sending back information which is used to interpret the state of the earth's surface.

Different colours represent forest, bare ground, and clouds, but the latter can be difficult to distinguish from snow. It can point out different rock types — useful in Australia for mining purposes, and more recently to monitor the bush fires.

Some information is distressing, like how rapidly the Amazon is being deforested; and some is useful, such as the disaster areas following an earthquake. He also spoke about air pollution, an ever-growing problem. The dust on your car could have come from the Sahara!

If anyone has a suggestion for a speaker please let Jane Randell know. — **Judith Moss**

● **POSTPONEMENTS/CANCELLATIONS:** The March meeting (Exo Mars Rover) has been postponed until **October 19** at Shalford Village Hall; the April meeting (Tour of the Universe) is postponed until **November 16**, West Horsley Village Hall (main hall) and the visit to the Mullard Space Science Laboratory in March was cancelled. The meeting on **May 18** at Chiddingfold Village Hall (online security) has also been cancelled, as has the planned visit in July to the Toyota Gardens.

THIS page was to have been dedicated to a report of our 102nd Annual Council Meeting at Dorking Halls.

It was only after great deliberation by the Board of Trustees that the decision was taken to cancel an event that was welcomed by so many members in a venue that would have been full.

I am writing this on the day that the ACM would have taken place. I cannot predict where we will all be by the time you receive this magazine.

Day by day, the shadow of coronavirus looms larger. We are on the brink of an unprecedented health event, unlike anything we have known in our life-time.

The WI has always stood strong in times of crisis. I exhort you to be active in your WIs and your communities, even at a distance, to keep in touch with your members and neighbours, and to offer whatever support, help and daily remote contact that you can. Remember especially those who do not have access to a computer. After all, we can all make a difference —

WE ARE THE WI

And now for the good news ...

☺ **Ian McMillan** has agreed to postpone the Ivor Novello concert until 2021 with no cost to us.

☺ **Amanda Owen**, the Yorkshire shepherdess, has agreed to speak at next year's Annual Council Meeting with the same financial arrangements as this year. We are also hoping NFWI chairman Lynne Stubblings will be able to attend.

☺ **Alieda Moore**, currently Deputy Agent for Greater London at the Bank of England,

acting as the Bank's 'eyes and ears' to connect Bank policymakers with London businesses and communities, has been booked for the Autumn Federation Meeting on **October 5** along with **Sabrina Cohen-Hatton**, once a homeless street-sleeper and now the country's top woman firefighter. The Orpheus students will also be there.

⊗ Not so good news: Our marquee and the competitions at the Surrey County Show have had to be CANCELLED.

Getting your money back

WE have been working through making refunds for the ACM and for other cancelled event and courses, says *Treasurer Sheena Landgraf*. By the time you read this you should have received your refund. If not, please can you make sure that you have provided us with your bank details which were requested in March. Otherwise please contact us (email preferred) with details of the refund you suspect might be due to you, and we will look into it.

At least food for the ACM didn't go to waste!

TRUSTEE Chris Butterfield arrived at Dorking Halls at 8.30 to alert any members who were unaware that the ACM had been cancelled. Cancellation notices were displayed on the front and back doors.

She stood by the entrance to the car park to hopefully catch members before they bought parking tickets.

Chris reports: "While I did

not encounter any WI members, several members of the public stopped to comment on our initiative and were concerned about how long I had to be there. One elderly gentleman offered to buy me lunch when I said I would only be there till 10am!

"Amy, the Events Manager at Dorking Halls, who is also a member of Epsom WI, very

kindly bought a cup of tea out for me. At least it didn't rain!"

At Amy's suggestion the food that had been booked for speakers, guests and helpers was donated to Dorking Community Kitchen and Leatherhead Start, which provides emergency accommodation to homeless men and women in the Mole valley.

The show could not go on but we can — and will!

HOW WE ARE OPERATING UNDER LOCKDOWN

For those of you who are wondering how we are managing to function, having had to cancel our Annual Council Meeting, we have a Board of Trustees in place with a co-opted member and officers, a process administered by Diane Sanderson, our Federation secretary, via email.

The adoption of the Standing Orders, Minutes of the ACM 2019, Annual Review and Accounts 2019, the appointment of the auditors and the Financial Adviser was done by a hard copy mail-out to all WIs. All votes received by the closing date were in support. The Statutory Financial statements have subsequently been filed at Companies House and with the Charity Commission.

Our Federation office has been closed since March 24. Initially the staff worked from home but they, along with Diane,

are now furloughed on full pay including pension contributions, confirmed in writing after a personal explanation to each.

The April Board of Trustees' meeting was successfully conducted via email. I suspect the minutes will make an interesting historical document one day!

The Federation's finances are in good shape so we have no concerns in this regard. With Diane on furlough, the Board of Trustees has agreed that Sheena Landgraf, our Treasurer, and I will take on the administration until we are able to open the office again. We will obviously monitor the incoming email on a daily basis but can't access the post. If the lockdown looks like persisting until the end of June I suggest that any members entering for this year's Lady Denman Cup should send in their entries by email. — **Carol A. Gartrell, Federation Chairman.**



Rows of empty seats at Dorking Halls on March 16 which would have been filled by Surrey WI members

Keep it coming ...

WE are endeavouring to keep producing *Surrey WI News* during the current crisis, but sadly our publisher, Today Magazines, has been unable to print this edition. Hence you have an online version — maybe you can print copies for members who are not online.

Please let us know how your WI is coping with the lockdown — future generations will want to know how we coped. Bored? Why not write an article for SWIN — we still need your help to produce our magazine, online or in print!

For news, comment and light relief you might also like to turn to our Facebook page (facebook.com/surreyfedwi) and other social media such as Twitter and Instagram listed on Page 2. — **June Green, Editor**

How you met the Lockdown challenge



Quizzes and pom poms keep the Butterflies busy

BOOKHAM Butterflies has set up a Butterflies Care Team during the coronavirus lockdown to help members who are having to self-isolate. We are also able to continue some activities from home, writes *Jen Broh*.

One of the last organised events before lockdown was a fantastic session for our Craft with a Heart group. We learnt how to make “Pom Pom Bears”, which we planned to sell at our now sadly cancelled Village Day. Members who attended the session have continued crafting at home. Jill Jackson, who runs the Craft Group, created a very striking Pom Pom rainbow (pictured). Jill got the idea from the Facebook page of Bookham business Grace and Cable — owner Jo used to teach knitting and crochet at Granary Crafts in the village. The pattern for the rainbow can be found at www.kerry-jaynedesigns.com

Members are being sent a weekly quiz to keep them occupied and one of the two Butterflies Book Clubs planned a virtual meeting

Teddies that help ease trauma

CAMBERLEY have busy knitting Trauma Teddies for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, *Paula Zymela reports*. “The fire service gives them to children involved in accidents, helping the child to focus on the toy rather than the awful situation they find themselves in.”



Trauma Teddies have been used all over the world and Surrey Fire and Rescue are keen to have as many as possible.

Paula has sent patterns for knitted and crocheted versions with this picture of a sample teddy. If you would like a copy, please email surreywinews@yahoo.co.uk stating whether you require the knitted or crocheted version and it will be emailed to you (or to a friend if you do not have email).

“It is a great way of using up odd bits of wool, and to keep idle hands busy!” Paula adds. “The teddy is knitted from the feet, up the body, through to the head and then continues with the back of the head and all the way down to the back of the feet. Then you add in the arms and sew it all together, stuff it and embroider on the face.”

Al fresco meeting for Millbridge committee

SEVERAL WIs have managed to hold virtual meetings online and hats off to **Millbridge’s** committee who are pictured holding a pre-lockdown emergency meeting outdoors on a cold but sunny morning to discuss how best to help and support members.

“Flower of the Month competition entries will be emailed for judging, along with pictures of craft projects,” writes *Diana Parratt*.

There’s a competition for short stories and observations — their book club discussions are currently done via email.



We have time to talk — let’s use it!

SEND Evening is a small but strong group, about 30 in number says secretary *Jenny Reigate*. We have been looking at ways to keep in touch with our members during these weeks of self isolating and self distancing.

Joan is our Sunshine committee member and she has arranged that all our committee members telephone four members on a weekly basis. This includes committee members as well. Joan has worked out a rota of who to phone and we are all phoning members that we don’t know very

well. This has enabled us all to become closer to each other, albeit not on a face to face basis.

It is surprising what you talk about when we all have things in common. Swapping ideas of how to keep busy, what support we have or need, missing our families, what we will do when we can go out again ...

We are considering maybe trying video calling but in the meantime remember, as Bob Hoskins said in the advert: “Its good to talk.”

A Positiviti-tree for the community

ONE of **Old Coulsdon Cupcakes’** members, Rachel Addy, a nurse and front-line worker, was taking a much-needed walk late one evening to clear her mind after a busy and long day at the hospital.

She walked to the flower-bed we look after, nicknamed Cupcake Corner, on the green by our village pond. She had an idea; it would be a lovely gesture if we decorated the trees with kind and positive messages of support, hope and thanks.

Our members have been fully supportive of the idea, and those able to get there during their daily permitted walk have hung messages. Members that are in self-isolation have told us their message, so we can write and hang it on their behalf. We hope it can bring some happiness to our community as they walk or drive past. — **Debbie Playle**

Ed’s Note: A message with a rainbow illustration attached to the tree reads: “The inspiration for this tree came from one of our members, herself a nurse and working on the front line. We would like to share hope, thanks and positive messages with members of our community as they walk or drive past.”



Above, the Positiviti-tree; right, Bee-Cycled, made from recycled materials for our perfect pollinator display at Wisley. She’s been proudly sitting



at Cupcake Corner and has had a bit of a facelift, ready to be put back in place once we are allowed out again, says Debbie.

QUOTE OF THE YEAR: “I am just going inside and I may be some time.” — Letter in the *Daily Telegraph* (with acknowledgement to Capt. Lawrence Oates)

TO KEEP in touch during lockdown **Horsell Afternoon** have done the simple things, writes Alison Evans Wyatt.

"Having Surrey WI News delivered has been well appreciated by our members who really felt connected in this time of isolation.

"We sent copies of SWIN with an Easter card and extra Spring quizzes inserted. From the phone calls and emails it seems to have gone down well. Not all our mem-



bers have internet or email so sticking to some traditional methods has worked well. Many are missing their small additional groups but keeping in touch by phone and boosting spirits with plenty of laughter.

"I also asked members to let me know what was keeping them busy at home and two members sent photos of the needlework they have been employing."

Barbara Cook has two 'work in progress' quilts. She says: "The first (pictured above) is an English patchwork, hand stitched over papers. Each hexagon measures about 3½" and each rosette is about 17" at its widest point. I have made 23 so far. The fabrics are almost all scraps from my various dressmaking projects.

"I started this under instruction of my maternal grandma, Nanny Grey, about 50 years ago and might start to sew them together soon!

"The second quilt is from a book, *Better*

Homes and Gardens, Our Best Quilts 2005. (The page illustrating the completed quilt is top right in the photograph).

"I cut a total of 384 squares, in three different sizes, last year. These are mostly batiks, patterns made by wax resist and dye. The situation at the moment has spurred me to start sewing!

"I have cut 252 of the squares in half diagonally, and the leaf shapes cut out, then joined together with contrasting fabrics. The curved piecing is quite challenging, but my previous life as a bra designer helps with this!

"The triangles are then sewn together to form small squares, or leaf units. For the single bed size I will need to stitch 132 of these units. These will be stitched together in clusters of four, alternated with printed squares, and then bordered as per the photograph in the book.



"My darling daughter, for whom I'm making this has asked if it could be a double size so I'll need to cut and stitch a few more!"

The beautiful snowdrop cross stitch has been completed by Janet Warrington, another of Horsell Evening's members handy with a needle, who hopes to frame the piece once restrictions are lifted.

Elsewhere: Cocktails, video calls, virtual quizzes, help for hospitals

BRIONY Bowen reports that **Reigate Evening** held a Zoom committee meeting. The sad news was reported that one of their older members died in hospital after an underlying condition was exacerbated by coronavirus.

Quite a number of our weekly groups are still functioning virtually by email or video calls — such as book groups discussing their latest read and sharing tips on enjoyable future reads, and poetry groups sharing inspiring and motivating poems, she says.

Sue Tattam, joint president of **Wallington and Carshalton** and her co-president have been ringing members to see how they're doing. If the lockdown goes on as expected, the calls will be shared out among other committee members.

Sue sent information out about Zoom and Houseparty. "About six of us Houseparty every few days. We had a committee meeting on Zoom and I did *Cocktails at Five* which ten members joined in."

Caterham Hill celebrated its 5th birthday with a virtual quiz and drink of whatever members needed in a pretty mug.

Maple Village made laundry bags (pictured) and scrubs for Kingston Hospital and donated £150 to the hospital to buy healthy snacks for NHS Staff and £150 to Voices of Hope, their

designated charity hub, to buy ingredients for meals for vulnerable people.

Marion Mitchell says **Churt** was planning to hand deliver SWIN and send copies to a few of their more elderly members who we know will appreciate it being delivered by Royal Mail. "We are also aiming to include a short note/mini newsletter to keep them up to date and to basically let them know that we are thinking of them."

Tessa Langmead reports that **Sidlow Bridge** is alive and well (in the wider sense).

"There are certain restrictions due to lack of technology available to some of our members but this adds to the intrigue when keeping in touch and helping each other when needed.

"Our President, Janet Mackenzie, has been a tower of strength by contacting everyone and spreading the word so that all the members are not ignored or left out. Our secretary has been busy passing on all the details of how to keep in touch from local and national federations," she writes.

"The member who was advised to self-isolate



for 12 weeks has been looked after by not only her local volunteer group, but by WI members in a more flexible position.

"We should have had a talk about wartime cooking, we have had practical experience forced upon us and are sharing recipes and tips on how to manage with store cupboard ingredients.

"We had an urgent request from the local hospital for making scrub laundry bags (via our WI Adviser). In four days we produced and delivered 125 bags. More are forthcoming. We should not be surprised, because this is the WI, well done all concerned.

"The 'lost village' story has revealed interesting details. It all started with a request to find a scrapbook which was entered into a WI competition many years ago. The scrapbook has been traced to the Reigate Priory Museum where it is well looked after and is available for borrowing by interested groups.

"We look forward to getting back to normal, I envisage a lot of sharing of experiences!"

"Our best wishes go to those members directly affected by this situation, and those that have family members in the front line."

● **Please keep in touch with SWIN and let us know what you are doing. June's magazine will also be published online.**

DID YOU KNOW that you can download SWIN from MyWI and increase the size of the page for easier reading online? Click on the full screen mode in the centre of the page and at the very top of the page are two icons, one to download a copy of the magazine, the other to zoom. Click the zoom icon and a slider appears enabling you to increase the page size.

E&O Show falls victim to the virus

THE Edenbridge and Oxted two-day show, planned for the August Bank Holiday weekend, has now been cancelled. However, the organisers of our WI marquee urge members to start practising for next year's show which will use the schedule planned for 2020 on the theme *Handmade With Love*.

They say the theme and the range of classes should appeal to the imagination, creativity and competitive nature of WI members to come up with exciting ideas and enter the competitions.

"If members start practising their crafting and baking now we could have the most entries ever in 2021," says organiser Ann Thomas hopefully.

The classes will be:

Co-operative Competitions

Storytime: Two items of craft, one item of cookery or a preserve and a floral exhibit to be displayed on a 20in/50cm covered round base.

IN support of February's climate change campaign, **Cuddington** contacted Jess Mead (pictured below), the South East Rivers Trust's project officer, to talk about its work on our local river, the Hogsmill.

The Trust's objective is for the Hogsmill to be a clean river, rich in biodiversity and a resource for an engaged local community.

In March, a survey of the entire length of the river took place to identify and locate mis-



Breakfast in Bed: Three items of cookery and/or preserves to be displayed on a tea tray not to exceed 20in./50cm. square.

Individual Competitions

Class 1 Busy Fingers: A twiddle muff (to be donated to a dementia unit after the show).

Class 2 If Only I'd Known: A letter of advice to your 16-year old self, max. 60 words.

Class 3 Hello Dolly: A rag doll.

Class 4 Captured Memories: A junk journal.

Class 5 Simple Soda: A savoury soda bread.

Class 6 Calming Colour: Your favourite Mandala picture — **Open Class**

Class 7 Finishing Touch: A floral corsage for lapel, wrist or handbag.

Class 8 Snuggle Down: A knitted or crocheted crib blanket.

Class 9 What a Treat: Five pieces of your favourite traybake.

Class 10 Warming Tipple: A bottle of home-



made fruit liqueur.

Class 11 Flowers for Friendship: A small posy/bunch of flowers and foliage.

Class 12 Arty Crafty: Textile wall hanging — **Open Class**.

The full schedule, and any amendments to it, will be on the Surrey Federation website and we will publish a reminder and further details in SWIN next year.

Fact finding about your local river



Cuddington members on the banks of the Hogsmill

connected outfalls — incorrect plumbing, household sewage released directly into the Hogsmill. The pollution is mapped, reported to Thames Water and tackled. This is one of Thames Water's success stories, slow and ongoing, but a success, Jess assured us.

Public health is the No. 1 priority, by improving water quality especially at the stepping stones area where children play. A wetlands area is also in the planning pipeline.

Jess finished the talk with the shock news that due to the amount of development in the area, the Hogsmill is only kept "alive" by Thames Water pumping water into the river's source, a chalk spring at Bourne Hill, Ewell. She suggested the following ways by which we can all reduce our water intake:

- When replacing household products, ask how water-efficient they are;
- Install a water meter. If you see increased usage, look for a leak;
- Install water butts for the garden;
- Feel good every time you take a short shower rather than a bath. — **Nicola Davies, President, Cuddington WI**

□ The South East Rivers Trust is an environmental charity dedicated to conserving and restoring rivers and their catchment across South East England. See www.southeastrivertrust.org. The Hogsmill is seven miles long and flows through Old Malden, New Malden and Berrylands before joining the Thames at Kingston-upon-Thames.

Message from the National Federation: We're here to help you

THE NFWI has been sharing lots of resources on My WI, many linking with the #MyVirtualWI initiative. These include hosting virtual meetings and arranging online sub-groups as well as resources about looking after your mental health during this time of isolation, FAQs about the impact of Covid-19 on WI meetings and events, and a wide range of exciting craft, cookery and sports activities to keep members busy during isolation.

Please check My WI regularly, and encourage members to sign up if they haven't already. It is more important now than ever that as many members as possible utilise the wealth

of resources it offers, as well as being the most immediate source of up-to-date information for all members.

We are aware there are WIs who are not online and members who do not have access to a computer. Please consider how you can keep these WIs connected at this time. You may wish to encourage WI members to ring each other frequently and focus on looking out for vulnerable members who may need additional support.

The WI will be a huge support network for many members at this time and we would like

to thank you for all of the work you have already done to support members. Please do let us know if there is anything we can help you with to ensure members stay connected. Whilst our office in London is closed, all staff can be contacted via email or telephone. Our phones are diverted to our mobiles so please be patient and wait for the ringing tone. Please let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to speaking to you soon. — **Naomi, Charlotte, Juliet, Fiona and Joanna, Membership and Engagement Team, NFWI.**



Literary lunch with Lynda

THE creator of *Prime Suspect* heroine Det. Chief Insp. Jane Tennison is the guest speaker at our Literary Lunch which will hopefully go ahead in September.

Lynda La Plante, CBE, not only created one of TV's most memorable police officers — brought to life on screen by Helen Mirren — but she has written countless other books and TV series, including *Widows*, *Trial and Retribution*, and the Anna Travis series *Above Suspicion*.

We also have a superb new venue: Glenmore House, at 6 The Crescent, Surbiton, KT6 4BN, is described as a fine example of late Georgian architecture. It has plenty of

parking and is not far from Surbiton station.

The date is **Friday, September 18**; the cost is £35 for a two course lunch. Drinks are not included. Arrive after 12 noon for lunch at 1pm.

Tickets are now available via the application form, our website, www.surreyfedwi.org.uk, or by sending an email to the office giving your name, WI, the name of the event and paying by electronic bank transfer.

NB: Places are limited to 130 so if, as we expect, demand for tickets is high, we may have to hold a ballot, hence **June 12 closing date**.

EMERGENCY MEASURES DURING CURRENT CRISIS

Whilst the office is closed post cannot be read, so any postal booking **MUST** be accompanied by an email giving full details of the booking, i.e. name/address/WI/event/number of tickets/amount paid etc.

Tea and quiz cancelled

NEW Haw and Woodham WI have had to cancel their tea party and quiz planned for July. The tea party was to raise funds towards refurbishing the high dependency maternity ward at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. President Cherill Thompson's members are keeping busy at home knitting trauma Teddies. "We could have hundreds of Teddies by the time this is over," she says.

Julie's heartfelt thanks

Following on from Wendy Lloyd's felt embroidered green hearts which were featured in our March edition, Julie Rankin of Sidlow Bridge sent



in this picture of green hearts she made and filled with lavender to give to friends who helped her while she was unable to get to the shops. The same design was on the reverse.

COACH BOOKINGS

PLEASE NOTE: Members who need assistance getting on or off the coach and/or during the event should apply for and pay the full cost of a ticket for a carer — a family member, i.e. husband or a friend — to accompany them.

[For further explanation see note under "Cancellations and small print" on application form page].

Cancellations and postponements

THE following events have been **POSTPONED**:

- Bridge tea (May 6)
- Get on Board free lunch at SFWI HQ (June 20).
- **Cookery workshops:**
Batch cooking for the freezer (May 16)
Vegetarian cookery (June 20)
- Afternoon Tea and Ivor Novello concert (this will now take place at the same venue in July 2021).
- The willow basket weaving workshop which was due to take place on June 16

and new speaker auditions at Godstone on July 14 have both been **CANCELLED**.

However the home economics team are still hoping to be able to go ahead with a workshop on making choux pastry in October, and two workshops on yummy treats for Christmas (including chocolate truffles) in December, about which more details later.

So far as the other events on this page are concerned, at the time of writing they are still going ahead, but please check our website and social media for up to date information.

CHECK ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Anyone for croquet?

Friday, July 10 or Friday, August 28

Surbiton Croquet Club, Alexandra Drive, Surbiton, KT5 9AA for:

Morning coffee and biscuits ~ Pre-lunch Pimm's

Lunch with wine ~ Afternoon tea/cake

Fun competition ~ prizes ~ all for £45

Closing date: **May 22**

(max. 32 players per session)

'Excellent value for money' — WI member

Coach trip to Brighton ~ Monday, June 29

Pick-up: Guildford Spectrum

Time: 10.30am ~ Cost: £29

What's included:

Audio tour of Brighton Pavilion

and *A Prince's Treasure* Exhibition

Tea provided by Cowfold WI

Driver's tip

Check with social media

Only 57 seats are available!



Celebrate Christmas at Brick Lane

WE have booked all 180 seats for the lunch-time show at the famous Brick Lane Music Hall on **Friday, December 11** — enough for three coachloads of members to enjoy a three course Christmas lunch and *Vincent's Jinglebell Lunchtime Show*.

The £67 cost of this great festive outing also includes a tour of the London lights for those coming by coach and the driver's tip. Drinks are not included but can be purchased from the music hall bar. If space permits, friends and family members will be welcome, but please contact the office first.

Brick Lane Music Hall is the brainchild of Vincent Hayes, MBE, who wanted to keep Music Hall alive. Starting in the back room of a pub in Bethnal Green in the 1980s, it then moved to the canteen of the former Truman's Brewery in Brick Lane. When it outgrew that, St Mark's Church in Silver-

town in London's Docklands was restored and opened in 2003 as the new Brick Lane Music Hall. To see what's in store, visit www.bricklanemusichall.co.uk and take the virtual 360° tour — it's a treat!

There is a short walk from the coach drop-off point to the venue, and all dietary needs can be catered for, so please indicate these when booking.

We aim to arrive at 12.15 for lunch at 1pm. The show starts at 2.30 and ends at 5pm, and we should be home by 8pm. The closing date for applications is **Friday, June 19**.

NB *Members who need assistance getting on or off the coach and/or during the event should apply for and pay the full cost of a ticket for a carer — a family member, i.e. husband or a friend — to accompany them.*



COACH DEPARTURE TIMES

Banstead Library (53 seats):	10.15am
Hare Lane Car Park, Claygate and Spectrum, Guildford (57 seats on each coach):	10.30am

● **Thirteen seats at £53pp are available to members of London WIs who can make their own way to the venue.**



Members of Old Coulsdon Cupcakes' Walking Netball squad are pictured showing their support for International Womens Day 2020



FIVE intrepid members of the Federation's Camera Group drove through heavy rain and sleet to Alice Holt Forest thinking: "Are we mad?" But as we parked the weather started to clear, we had coffee in the warm cafe and then walked on well drained paths to take our photographs. We all agreed it had been worth the drive. — **Barbara Cavalier**

● **All further meetings of the camera group have been cancelled until September.**



The show goes on — in fantastic fashion

AFTER a week of difficult decisions and a lot of last minute organisation, it was agreed we should go ahead with the Charity Spring Fashion Show organised by the **Chinthurst Group** of WIs consisting of Ockford Godalming, Shalford, Bramley and Grafham & Smithbrook in March — just before the lockdown.

After *Hello Lovely* withdrew from the show due to concerns surrounding coronavirus, not to mention a reduction in fashions available from Italy and China, it was thought we would have to postpone or cancel.

The networking powers of the WI set about to find a solution and within less than 24 hours M&Co, Godalming, had agreed to take over and supply the fashions for our models. This led to a flurry of activity as the models were swiftly sent to choose and try on their outfits.

So, it was with much relief (not to mention a constant supply of hand soap and antibacterial hand gel) that the doors were opened at the Wilfred Noyce Centre in Godalming to approximately 120 ladies, all keen for an afternoon of fun, fantastic fashion, jazz entertainment provided by the Godalming Jazz Choir and a very impressive afternoon tea.

And they were not disappointed.

Eight models appeared in a casual spring outfit, followed by a smarter one suitable for a wedding or garden party, all at very reasonable prices.

Afterwards it was time to sit back and relax and listen to the five-part harmony of the Jazz Choir led by Phoebe Gaydon from *A Touch of Musicality*.

Afternoon tea was elegantly served on tiered cake stands with a range of home-made sweet and savoury options. There was also a luxury raffle with 12 hampers containing a range of super prizes as well as vouchers for massage, style consultations, Secrets Farm Shop and music/singing lessons.

The event was organised to raise awareness of the many pleasures in being a WI member with all profits going to support local charities — The Meath Epilepsy Charity, Jigsaw Trust and the Mayor's chosen charities for 2020. — **Julia Foster**



Pictures: Galio Photography

Our Surrey spring weekend at Denman



Denman's grounds provided inspiration for the digital photography group. Above, Shirley Wood of Shalford WI took this beautiful picture of a hyacinth. Below, members in action with tutor David Clarke



The glass fusion course under tutor Shirley Eccles was the choice of two SFWI Trustees. Hard at work are Carol Gartrell, Federation chairman (top) and Chris Butterfield (above right).



Right, examples of what can be achieved.



THIRTY Surrey members attended the second Denman Experience overnight stay in early March, including six first-timers which is what the Experience is really all about — encouraging members who have never been previously to find out what we are talking about when we enthuse about Denman.

We enjoyed wonderful weather and the photographers had a lovely morning to take pictures in the grounds before practising their editing and Photoshop skills with tutor David Clarke.

The glass fusers produced some stunning pendants in the microwaves and then prepared coasters for kiln firing by tutor Shirley Eccles — a very creative and happy time was had by all.

Under the expert guidance of Sue Klemencic the watercolourists immersed themselves in producing excellent paintings of a bluebell wood (see below) and seaside scenes.

The beaders made some wonderful necklaces for themselves or as gifts with the help of Amy Surman.

● At the time of writing Denman has closed and all courses are postponed until July 1. There are still some vacancies on this year's Surrey at Denman weekend (July 10-12) if it goes ahead. Contact me for details. — **Lesley Earl, Denman Ambassador.**

lesleyearlwi@hotmail.co.uk



Photographs by LESLEY EARL



Time out — coffee, home-baked biscuits and a chance to chat and compare notes are a welcome respite from all that concentration!



Above: Watercolour tutor Sue Klemencic points out the finer points of technique. Left, two students bathed in sunlight put them into practice!



Above: You have to concentrate when doing beadwork, guided by Amy Surman.

Left, the results of one student's labours



Parmesan crisps adorn this dish prepared by chef Alex Mackay in his cookery demonstration on the Saturday evening

Over to you *What you have been doing since we last met*

Your contributions to the magazine start here. Items should be sent to surrey.selections@yahoo.co.uk



DECORATIONS of bright flowers brought a touch of much needed sunshine to **Outwood's** March meeting where we welcomed a most striking-looking speaker — the artist Helen Pointer.

Helen began her art career as a portrait painter, but she now delights audiences by creating lively caricatures. She has had several well known subjects including Prince Charles, Roger Bannister and Joan Collins and she can create a large party portrait including 40 people at one sitting! She is also a popular



addition to weddings and conferences, as well as entertaining the passengers on cruise liners.

We were treated to a demonstration on how to draw a face that is proportionally correct, and watched her manipulate the features and 52 muscles of the human face to create an exaggerated expression which captured the subject perfectly. She added accessories to match the characters : garden equipment, hats, drinks.

Several of our members were treated to her humorous interpretations. Luckily, the subjects chosen, including Lynn Pitts (right) and Carolyn Last (left), were as pleased with the results as we were.

Helen donated her fee to St. Catherine's Hospice which we are always very happy to support.



We are planning trips to local places of interest and are also hoping to introduce some new monthly clubs as our membership and scope of interests increases. — **Elizabeth Dyke**

THERE are some presentations/performances which capture the attention of an audience from beginning to end. Jonathan Jones, speaking on the life and poems of Rudyard Kipling, did just that at **Chipstead Evening's** March meeting.

Jonathan's was a cleverly constructed biography in which he spoke in the first person as Rudyard Kipling, peppered with superb renditions of Kipling's poetry.

Born in India but educated in England, Kipling's poems reference both countries, covering the unsettled times leading to the First World War, the social class structure of the day, family life and personal tragedies.

SIDLOW Bridge President Janet Mackenzie welcomed two new members and a visitor. The meeting of the Jubilee Group was discussed and volunteers arranged for the teas on the day. We have been invited to run a cake stall at the Salfords and Sidlow event planned for May 8. A new venture for the craft group involves putting a favourite photo on a cushion cover.

Our speaker was Ian Muir, recycling officer for Reigate and Banstead Council. We were surprised at the things we thought we knew, but he told us otherwise! The whole process of recycling is quite technical and of course expensive. Our council is in the top 15% in the country with its recycling, but we could do a lot more. A slideshow was informative and interesting, it showed the various stages of the whole process. A bag of everyday items was shown to acquaint us with the various types of bottles/containers/tubs etc. — **Tessa Langmead**

Fancy a holiday in a lighthouse?

WOODMANSTERNE Evening welcomed husbands and friends to hear Chris Trelawney, a representative from Trinity House, a self funded charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafaring.

On May 20, 1514, Henry VII presented a Royal Charter to a Guild of Mariners troubled by the poor conduct of unregulated pilots on the Thames, an element essential to Britain's maritime structure today.

With 95% of the UK's goods, coming or leaving by sea, Trinity House is extremely important and aids navigation, support and training for seafarers, making it integral for this island nation's wellbeing. If you would like to know more visit <https://www.trinityhouse.co.uk/about-us>.

You can also holiday in some of the lighthouses or the ships which carry out the maintenance at sea. — **Susanne Martina**

LINGFIELD Evening welcomed several new members and visitors to our February meeting and enjoyed listening to Brian Nobbs' talk about how to encourage wildlife into our gardens. Brian, who is an RSPB volunteer, gave us top tips on habitat care, such as looking after nest boxes and where to put bird feeders. He also showed us how to construct an insect house and recommended plants to grow to encourage wildlife at different times of year. His talk left us all inspired to get out in our gardens and prepare for the year ahead! — **Tricia Timms**

A memorable evening with Rudyard Kipling

Jonathan's recitation of *Tommy* was insightfully performed with considered timing and a wonderful accent. To hear *The Smugglers* brought to mind school English lessons: "Them that ask no questions, isn't told a lie; watch the wall my darling while the gentlemen go by ..."

Kipling returned to Bombay in later life, becoming editor of the *Punjab Daily*, returning to England in 1889.

He suffered devastating personal bereave-

ments with the loss of one of his daughters when she was six years old, and a son killed in action at the start of WWI. He wrote poems about each.

At the end of the evening several members remarked that they were going home to re-read Kipling's poetry. I shall certainly be seeking out *The Glory of the Garden* and *The River's Tale*. — **Katherine Goldsmith**

KENLEY Flyers had a most enjoyable and interesting tour of DSI London in Thornton Heath, where the *Strictly Come Dancing* dresses are made. After a welcome with a glass of Prosecco we were given an insight into the workings of DSI; how the wishes of the *Strictly* contestants are taken into consideration just hours prior to the show going out live! The timescale for making the dresses is just one week once the names are released by the BBC.

We were taken to see Ash at work. Such patience, placing each individual rhinestone on to the dress — amazing. The dress fabrics and selection of colours were stunning. Costume designer Vicky Gill came to chat about her role with the contestants. Now we can't wait for the next *Strictly* season! — **Ann Jones**



DESPITE what most of us thought, tulips didn't come from the Netherlands. Early records show they originated in China, and then were much revered in Persia in the 15th century. Bulbs were brought to England in the 1580s by John Tradescant, members of **Dormans Evening** heard from speaker Cherrill Sands, whose colourful slides reminded us how these beautiful spring flowers bring delight to our gardens.

DEWI thrives on teamwork. "I only" members each take a small part in the various activities going on each month, from refreshments to thanking the speaker, tending the memorial garden, and those who lead the walkie talkies, mah-jong, gardening and book clubs ensure that we provide friendship for all members. Forthcoming events include the popular plant sale and coffee morning on May 16, a visit to Chequer Mead Theatre to see *Les Miserables*, the skittles evening in June and the picnic and performance at Hever in August. — **Enid Marten**



Crafternoon

Members of **Lingsfield Village** are pictured during an afternoon of craft, including origami, paper flowers, painting pots plus board games.

Mayor unveils knitted map of town



MEMBERS of Camberley's craft group are pictured with their "knitted Camberley" map at its unveiling by the Mayor of Surrey Heath, Coun. Robin Perry, and Mayoress Jill Boxall (fifth from left) with craft group leader Josephine Wells seventh from left. The map was to have been displayed at our Annual Council Meeting and will go on display at the town's library and Heritage Centre.

ASHTED held a successful fund raising coffee morning and news was given at our March meeting about visits being planned.

We were asked whether we would prefer to read *Surrey WI News* on paper or online. It was felt that we would prefer to have paper copies to read and refer back to, but that we should try to limit the number of copies needed.

WIs have been approached by organisations for the blind to support continued use of the TV red button service which might be phased out.

LAST summer's drought spelt the end of one of **Pebblecombe's** commemorative trees on Betchworth's Green. We are replacing it with a beautiful native rowan.

A demonstration of sugarcraft by Kate Ferris at our March meeting showed us how to create miniature flowers and animals from sugar modelling paste on an Easter theme, making daffodils, hot crossbuns, ducks and cheeky rabbits to decorate cupcakes.

Bringing drama to prisoners

"ACTRESS behind bars" Carolann Martys told **Alice Holt** of her work helping the inmates of Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight to do play readings over many years. Carolann became an actress after training at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. When she moved to the Isle of Wight she joined the WI, "making friends as well as lampshades!" and the local Am-Dram society. She was asked if she would go into Parkhurst to talk about being an actress, then offered to go on a more regular basis to do play readings.

These were conducted with groups of about 12 men from various backgrounds who had committed serious offences. Reggie Kray was one of the prisoners she met and she took many actors to entertain the prisoners, including Daniel Day Lewis. — **Alison Alexander**

MILLBRIDGE had an inspiring visit from Andy Cook, CEO of the Frensham-based Helen Arkell Dyslexia charity. His talk not only highlighted the excellent work done by the charity, but also motivated us to make it the beneficiary of our Village Fun Quiz raffle. — **Janet McFadyen**

Our knitters have been busy providing many beautiful little hats to the Tadworth Children's Trust for premature babies.

Michelle Ernout told us about the amazing lives of honey bees, and the challenges beekeepers can face. It was good to hear that many London buildings now have beehives on their flat roofs.

Our raffle was extra special with members able to win some beautiful daffodils, potted up by one of our members. We have been invited to submit suggestions for our committee to consider. — **Sandra Brown**

From Fear to Friend is the name of a voluntary group helping children to overcome their fear of dogs.

At our February meeting Nicky Deakin gave an illustrated explanation of their work.

The group, run by qualified dog trainer Ann Cook, runs regular classes teaching children how to relax in the company of dogs without worrying, so they and their families can enjoy a normal life. — **Pam Patch**

MEMBERS of Bisley's craft group are pictured beneath a string of green hearts they made and hung across the entrance to the village hall where they meet.

The speaker was the extremely entertaining Faith Powell, who told us of some of her experiences on television game shows. Apparently Bob Monkhouse was a lovely man and *Ready, Steady, Cook* was not quite what it appeared to be!

The walking group enjoyed a dry walk around Goldsworth Lake to Squire's Garden Centre for coffee

TRUMPS Green were entertained by actor Ian Recordon, pictured with President Vivien Horsley, performing his Alan Bennett monologue *A Chip in the Sugar*.

Ian adopts Bennett's Yorkshire accent to tell this quite lengthy story of a middle-aged man who lives with his mother, and the disruption which enters their life when she befriends an elderly gentleman.

Ian delivers it without notes and with such authenticity that we found ourselves lost in the story. An unusual act which I do not hesitate to recommend. — **Mary Wildsmith**

IN ALL the years that **Ottershaw** has been able to research its history not once did we find that a meeting had to be cancelled because of a General Election. Our Christmas social was hurriedly re-scheduled for January, the mincepies put on hold and, to our relief, the entertainment re-booked.

We were fortunate that the Surrey Fringe Chorus, due to entertain us in December, was available in January and made a splendid and happy start to the New Year. This barbershop harmony group were delightful and covered a wide range of music including a surprise performance of *Happy Birthday* for one of our members.



ALISON Hoyland showed **Claygate** how to enhance our better features and diminish less good ones. She is pictured helping one of our members decide on undertones, depth and clarity of colours to wear. We concluded that she was an Autumn person and should wear warm soft colours with some depth. Alison also gave us a list of no-no's like dirty shoes, missing buttons or snagged tights. It will be interesting to see what we are wearing when we next meet — **Wendy Cannon**

MOLE Valley's speaker was a volunteer from Surrey Search and Rescue, who respond to missing person searches, water rescues, drone imaging and other tasks at the request of Surrey Police and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and other agencies. So far this year they have rescued 32 people; in 2019 the number was 108. They use dogs of all sizes and it takes 1½ years to train them to air scent instead of requiring scent from a person. Donations have enabled them to acquire an underwater drone. — **Carol Murray**

THE LAST WORD: By the time we come out of lockdown, we will all have immaculate homes, beautiful gardens and be in dire need of a hair-dresser. — **WI member**



but had a very wet walk back to their cars! The lunch group was out in force at Bourne Valley Garden Centre for lunch and a spot of retail therapy. — **Barbara Rothwell**



HOW TO BOOK PLACES ON OUR COURSES AND EVENTS

1. Online: Bookings can be made for groups or individuals via our website, www.surreyfedwi.org.uk. Or you can book by sending an email to info@surreyfedwi.org.uk giving your name and address, WI, which course/event you are applying for and the amount paid and paying by bank transfer quoting SFWI, sort code 60-09-21, account number 01028499, giving your surname and course name as a reference.

2. By Post: (a) WI Group Bookings (in red): Group bookings can be made by your WI to reduce handling time in the office and should preferably be made through the Treasurer.

Money **MUST** be collected and banked in your WI account before applying for tickets. An invoice will be sent to your treasurer for a WI group booking after the closing date, along with any other information about the event. Treasurers are requested to settle all invoices (together with any other monies owed) in one payment monthly, preferably online.

● **If making a group booking via the website, email or by post, please supply the office with a list of names of those attending.**

(b) Members' bookings: Members can apply

individually, or on behalf of more than one person, for **all** courses/events using the Members' booking form. Forms should be sent to SFWI, 6 Paris, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX together with a cheque payable to SFWI for the full amount. Please include an s.a.e. for confirmation of your booking.

NB Closing dates are given in brackets after the name of the event. The letters 'CO' denote the closing date has passed and you should contact the office for ticket availability. n/m = non-member. ●● = Please notify of any dietary/allergy requests.

Event (Closing Date)	Date	Price	No. of tickets
We hope the following events will go ahead but please check with social media, i.e. our website www.surreyfedwi.org.uk Twitter, Instagram and Facebook			
Coach trip to Brighton (May 15) (see below*)	June 29	£29	
Croquet Taster Days (May 22)	July 10	£45	
	August 28	£45	
Literary Lunch (June 12) ●●	September 18	£35	
Brick Lane Music Hall (June 19) ●● (see below*)	December 11	£67	
		£53 (exc. coach)	

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

- If ordering tickets for a group of members, please write the names of all those attending on a separate piece of paper and attach it to the Booking Form or email it to the office if booking online. Failure to do so may result in your application being delayed.
- Please CUT ALL AROUND the dotted line or return the whole page.
- Please notify the office of any dietary/allergy requests for events marked ●●

Cancellation and other necessary small print

- Tickets applied for and not cancelled before the closing date will be charged in full and have to be paid for.
 - WI funds cannot be used to subsidise tickets applied for but not required.
 - Places cannot be guaranteed until after the closing date. ● If an event is over-subscribed a ballot will take place.
 - Members are reminded that they take part in all events at their own risk.
- The Federation is not liable for additional costs or changes to a programme caused by circumstances beyond its control.

*COACH BOOKINGS

The Coach Monitor is **ONLY** responsible for ensuring that all members are present and is **not** permitted to perform any other role. Members who need assistance getting on or off the coach, and/or during the event, should apply for and pay the full cost of a ticket for a carer who may be a family member, i.e. husband, or a friend, to accompany them.

MEMBERS' BOOKING FORM

Please enclose (1) your cheque payable to SFWI or pay online and (2) a self addressed stamped envelope for confirmation of booking

Your name

Your WI

Your phone no.....

Your email

Address to which tickets/magazine should be sent

.....

.....

..... Postcode

If booking for Brick Lane Music Hall, please tick coach required
Banstead Claygate Guildford

WI GROUP BOOKING FORM

An invoice will be sent to your treasurer for a WI group booking. Please ensure all money has been paid and the money has been banked by your Treasurer before applying.

Your name

President/Secretary/Treasurer (delete as appropriate)

On behalf of WI

Your phone no

Your email.....

Address to which tickets should be sent

.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

If booking for Brick Lane Music Hall, please tick coach required
Banstead Claygate Guildford