



SURREY WI NEWS

MAY 2024

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



INSIDE:

KSS Air Ambulance Report
Are Asian Hornets bothering you?
Tips for National Vegetarian week!

Photo: Buckland Park Lake by Chris Grove, Federation Camera Club



HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Surrey Federation of WIs
6 Paris Parklands,
Railton Road,
Guildford,
Surrey. GU2 9JX

The office is open from 8am to 4pm Mon-Fri

info@surreyfedwi.org.uk
01483 233230

www.surreyfedwi.org.uk

Follow us:



FEDERATION SECRETARY

Karen Whitehead
secretary@surreyfedwi.org.uk



SURREY WI NEWS

Editor: Ruth Bolton
Over To You: Sandra Fine



Proof Readers:
Georgina Wagner, Sandra Fine, Jill Mulryan, Hilary Brooks, Jan Jenner
surreywinews@surreyfedwi.org.uk

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please attach your photos to emails rather than paste in the body of your email.

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'.

Co-chairs' Welcome



Thank you to everyone that gave us feedback from the ACM in March. It has greatly helped the Trustees to evaluate and plan forward. With more than 7,000 members and less than 300 choosing to purchase tickets for the meeting we feel the time is right to evaluate and make changes.

Last weekend I was in Scotland and enjoyed snow, sleet, rain, storm Kathleen, sunshine and cloud, four seasons in a long weekend. It reminded me of my own WI, where in a month I can get all the 'seasons' of a WI: speaker, craft, book-club, wine-club, supper, walks and lots of talking and friendship? The Member Zoom Catch Ups are for all Surrey members and are a great source of ideas and support for members and WIs. Please look at Talking Points for log on details.

Jill and I are looking forward to the next year of volunteering as your Co Chairs. We are also pleased with the exciting events planned for SFWI members by the SALT committee. There are so many exciting things to get involved with if you want to. Please don't ever worry about turning up to an event alone, you will be surrounded by other lovely WI members.

Wishing you all a great May of WI fun, learning and friendship.

Angie Leach, Co-Chair, Surrey Federation

As you read this, I am hoping the season has turned the corner. As I write, it is currently hot, 19°C in Kenley, and the laundry from the 'Thank you lunch' is drying in the breeze.

It was so good to welcome so many of you to the lunch, a very relaxed time for members to talk over events they have organised and volunteered to help run, and always great to put names to faces. We are all volunteers, and it gives the Trustees great pleasure, to say thank you annually. The sock game was great fun, thank you our new Trustee Dorinda – this game may take over from handbag bingo!

Thank you to the members who attended the performances of Calendar Girls at short notice, raising our profile with the theatre goers. Also, the members who supported Angie and me at the Office, when we hosted an International Women's Day Coffee morning.

Last month I said I would share the information we gathered from your feedback forms completed after the Annual Council Meeting. Not many forms were completed, so we are not sure if this is a representative view. By and large, you were happy with the venue, the Speakers were excellent, the more relaxed atmosphere was enjoyed. Some members left before the choir led us into the National Anthem because of problems with the parking payment systems.

Jill Mulryan, Co-Chair, Surrey Federation

Asian Hornets :

An Ecological Nightmare?

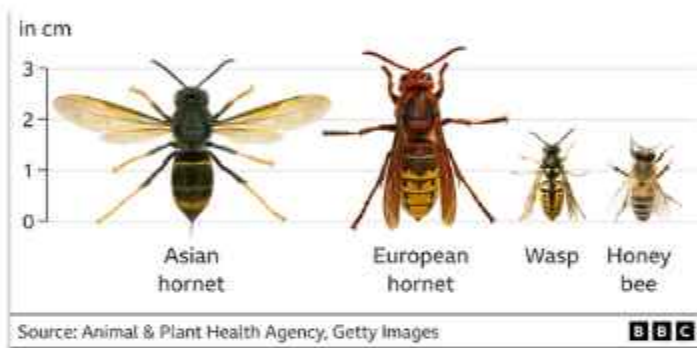
by Alison Derrick, BeeInspired Skincare,
member of Kingston Beekeepers Association and Kingston WI

What is an Asian Hornet?

A non native invasive species, not only aggressively predating on honeybees, but also on other insects and crops. If they are devouring insects our already threatened biodiversity and eco system will be destroyed. Hornets are the largest members of the wasp family Vespidae and this predatory species could have a devastating impact on British honeybees.

Asian hornets, also known as yellow-legged hornets, were introduced to Europe when they arrived in France in 2004, thought to have been unknowingly transported in cargo. From there they rapidly spread across Western Europe. They have been in Britain since 2016, hitchhiking on cross channel transport.

It's really important not to confuse the European hornet with the yellow legged Asian hornet.



Why are they a threat?

Beehives are like 'supermarket sweep' to an Asian hornet, they raid honeybee hives by hawking outside and capturing workers as they go in and out. They chop the bees up and feed the thorax to their young. Honeybees feeling threatened will not leave the hive to either pollinate or forage, having an enormous knock on effect on pollination and food-chain.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is trying to prevent a nationwide Asian hornet invasion, currently through eradication of individuals and nests. But if the species becomes established in the UK, it is likely there is very little that could be done about it.

One mature Asian hornet nest can produce over 200 queens for the following year.

Where do I find out more?

Speak to your local beekeeper or beekeeping association <https://surreybeekeepers.org.uk/about/>

Look at British Beekeepers Association website <https://www.bbka.org.uk/listing/category/asian-hornet-vespa-velutina>

What can I do?

- Download the Asian hornet app to your phone. SEE IT, SNAP IT APP IT!
- or go to <https://www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport>
- Learn identification.
- Crucially, next spring, consider placing a trap in your garden, as trapping a queen prevents her setting up a nest - speak to your local Beekeeping Association for details.



Do NOT interfere with nests or individual hornets as they are aggressive and give a nasty sting.

What's New from HQ?



Dear all

At the Annual Council Meeting in March the Board announced the Federation Officers 2024-25 as follows:

- Federation Joint Chair(s) – Angie Leach (Streatham WI/Virtual Vixens WI) and Jill Mulryan (Old Coulsdon WI)
- Federation Treasurer – Sheena Landgraf (Caterham Hill WI)
- 3 Vice Chairs – Jill Arthur, Jan Jenner and Ann Thomas

Other Trustees: Christine Grove, Dorinda Brittle, Debbie Playle, Ann Robertson, and Ruth Williams

Please notify us of any changes to your officers ie President, Treasurer, Secretary and also SWIN delivery as soon as possible via email info@surreyfedwi.org.uk so that we have the up-to-date information.

With effect from Wednesday 1 May 2024 the office phones will be open Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm outside of these times please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible, alternatively please send an email to info@surreyfedwi.org.uk as this is monitored on a regular basis.

Could all members please note that we no longer send out tickets for SFWI events or workshops. The organiser will have a list of attendees that have applied for a space(s) on the event or workshop. Currently, the only events with physical tickets are the Annual Council Meeting, the Annual Federation Meeting, and the National Federation Meeting.

Surrey WI News Editorial - CORRECTION

In last month's article marking World Autism Awareness Day, autism was described as a developmental neurodivergence including one of several mental health conditions. Whilst it is true that some of the symptoms listed are traits of autism, many of these are not mental health conditions but forms of neurodivergence, for example ADHD and OCD. Any reference to neurodivergent or mental health conditions being labelled a 'problem' are incorrect.

Autumn Dates for Your Diary:

- Air Ambulance: **4 September** - Bookings open 17 June
 - Literary Lunch with Cecily Blench: **20 September** - Bookings open 17 June
 - Cheddar Cheese workshop: **14 September** - Bookings open 1 July
 - Ladies wot Lunch Stump Work workshop: **10 September** - Bookings open 22 July
- Bookings can be made via [Our Events](#) or the booking form at the end of this issue

SFWI Events

We have a huge array of events for individual members or groups to join. You can browse and book all of our SFWI Events on our website via [Our Events](#) - most paying events now have a 'bookings open' date. Bookings will no longer have a closing date but will show 'The Event is Fully Booked' when there is no longer any availability. Any bookings made via the SWIN booking form will be held in the office and dealt with on the 'bookings open' date.

THE 2024 ANNUAL SUPPER QUIZ



Friday 24 May
7.00pm-10.00pm
£14pp



Worplesdon Memorial Hall

Availability for 11 tables of 8 people.

Bookings now open

Book your ticket via [Our Events](#) on the website, or use the booking form at the end of this issue

INDOOR BOWLS TASTER

Wednesday 15 May
10.30am-6.30pm

Woking Indoor Bowls Club

Come for a fun day out!
Bowls, tea/coffee and lunch breaks
included.
£15 per person



[Book your ticket via Our Events on the website,](#)
[or use the booking form at the end of this issue.](#)

Turner's Seascapes with a Ladle Lunch Wednesday 22nd May 2024 from 12.30pm-4.00pm



At The Old Barn Hall Bookham

With Guest Speaker Barry Venning an Art Historian and Lecturer with a particular interest in the work of JMW Turner

£25 includes a light soup and bread lunch with coffee/tea

Bookings now open

Book your ticket via [Our Events](#) on the website, or use the booking form at the end of this issue

SFWI Events

MEMBER CHAT AND CATCH UP DATES

Please come and join us for our free monthly drop in sessions. No charge, no question too big or too small, and lots of exchanging of ideas, tips and general conversation!

21 May - 7.00pm - Other WI activities to engage with

18 June - 10.00am - Sharing ideas of walks and outdoor activities

16 July - 7.00pm - Welcome and chat to new SFWI members



Book your place via the [Our Events](#) page of the website

LONDON WALKS WITH A TWIST!

GIN: THE SPIRIT OF WESTMINSTER WALKING TOUR

Our guide Dr Helen Naylor brings you history as you 'stagger' the distance from Westminster to The Strand taking in the story of London across the centuries.



ALL LONDON WALKS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

Our tours @ £17pp
Start at 11.20am

Friday 31 May
Saturday 8 June
Wednesday 19 June
Friday 21 June
Monday 24 June

Book your ticket via [Our Events](#) on the website, or use the booking form at the end of this issue

Mozzarella and Halloumi Cheese Workshop

Saturday 8th June 2024 9.30am – 3.30pm
Richard Challoner School,
Manor Drive North, New Malden KT3 5PA
Cost £55 per person



Make Mozzarella and Halloumi in one session with Tutor, Louise Talbot who will also demonstrate how to make Butter and Mascarpone.

Includes a light lunch

Bookings now open

Book your ticket via [Our Events](#) on the website, or use the booking form at the end of this issue

Fabergé Style Strawberries

Wednesday 12th June 2024 10.00am – 3.30pm
Surrey WI Federation Office
6 Paris, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey,
GU2 9JX
Cost £40 per person Tutor: Carole Wade



Using wool felt, you will create a 3D strawberry and stalk and decorate it with embroidery, beads and sequins. You will need to have some basic hand sewing and embroidery skills.

Please bring a packed lunch with you.

Bookings now open

Book your ticket via [Our Events](#) on the website, or use the booking form at the end of this issue

COME AND JOIN THE CHOIR!

Surrey Serenaders choir meet to practice on the second and fourth Saturday of every month from 10am to 12.30pm. In 2024 the venue has been changed to St James' Church Abinger, Abinger Common, RH5 6HZ. Anyone can come and listen. New members (including non-WI members) are always welcome. For information email: surreyserenaders@surreyfedwi.org.uk

SFWI Events



TREASURER WORKSHOPS

1.00pm - 4.00pm Monday 10 June at SFWI HQ

5.00pm - 8.00pm Thursday 25 July at SFWI HQ

£9 per person. Please book via [Our Events](#) or by printing and filling in the booking form at the end of this issue.

The Chocolate School

The Mayford Centre, Mayford Green

Filled Chocolate and Truffle Workshops



Saturday 1 June 1.00pm-4.00pm

Sunday 2 June 1.00pm-4.00pm

Tuesday 16 July 10.00am-1.00pm

£55 per person

Book your ticket directly via

<https://www.thechocolateschool.co.uk/womens-institute>
using the code: Wicourses2024



Gordon Ramsay Academy

Commercial Way, Woking

Summer Entertaining Cookery Demonstration

Tuesday 11 June

6.30pm-8.00pm

£30 per person

Book your ticket
directly via



<https://book.gordonramsayacademy.com/book/add/p/507>



New Speaker Auditions

Godstone Village Hall, Friday 14 June

Ten prospective speakers are hoping to join our next Surrey Yearbook, and only you can decide if they will make it.

Morning session: 10:15am-12.45pm

(Doors open at 9.30am)

Afternoon session: 1.45pm to 4.15pm

(Doors open at 1.00pm)

Cost per person: **£5.00 per session** or **£9.00 for both sessions** (for both sessions bring a packed lunch, or visit the pub nearby).

Bookings now open

Book your ticket via [Our Events](#) on the website, or use the booking form at the end of this issue

Did you know you can also read the latest Surrey WI News on our website by clicking the Surrey WI News button on the [website homepage](#).

You can also print this off yourself (in colour, or in black and white to save ink) or subscribe to a printed and posted copy via info@surreyfedwi.org.uk

You can also follow our [SurreyFedWI](#) Facebook page for the latest WI news from SFWI and around the country.



CROQUET TASTER DAY

Surbiton Croquet Club

Friday 30 August: 10.00am-4.00pm: £50pp

Bookings open 3 June via [Our Events](#)
or the booking form at the end of this issue

SFWI News

CAMERA GROUP everyone is welcome

Friday 17 May: Ramster Gardens and Tea House, GU8 4SN

Thursday 20 June: Abinger Hammer walk starting from the Tea rooms, RH5 6RX

Tuesday 16 July: Mayfield Lavender Farm, KT17 3DW

Camera Group meets at 10.30am or 11.00am depending on the venue.

Participants use cameras, phones and iPads to take their photographs. If you like taking pictures and are free on any of our advertised dates, please do come along.

For more details contact:
twocavs@googlemail.com

GIVE SOMETHING BACK AS AN IFE

Have any of your members previously been bank employees, accountants or someone simply good at figures and would like to give something back to the WI without getting involved in committees and meetings?

If so, have you thought about joining our team of Independent Financial Examiners, and help to keep this vital service going for our WIs?

Many WIs rely on the Federation to provide them with an Independent Financial Examiner, and we are in need of volunteers to examine WI's accounts and provide a correct summary of the year's transactions. A small fee is paid for undertaking this work.

You do not have to be a WI Treasurer or even a WI member; a basic understanding of spreadsheets and an enquiring mind is what we're after. Training is provided to help you to understand WI rules and objectives.

Interested? Or do you know someone who might be? **Please email our SFWI Treasurer, Sheena Landgraf at treasurer@surreyfedwi.org.uk - she'll be delighted to hear from you.**

TRIUMPHANT TOPPERS!



Many of you may have visited the Postbox Topper exhibition in Guildford Cathedral in April. From 80 entries, 40 were on display including this Christmas topper (left) and Spring topper (right), both from **Claygate WI**.



Claygate WI's
Easter 24 topper



Bisley WI Craft Group made these marzipan Easter Bunnies, with a cream egg inside and to top it all, an Easter post box cover!



This is Me and The Climate

Damning Global Warming Ruling in Switzerland and runway protests at Gatwick

I can't resist sharing this with you. Last August my article highlighted some interesting women in Switzerland who formed themselves into a group Klima Seniorinnen, Senior Women for Climate Protection who launched the case against the Swiss government nine years ago, calling for better protection of women's health in relation to climate change. On 29th March 2023 they succeeded in getting their case heard at the European Court of Human Rights and chose Mark Willers from the London firm Garden Court Chambers to represent them. Last week they travelled to Strasbourg to hear the outcome, Greta Thunberg went along to join them.

The Court ruled that Switzerland's efforts to meet its emission targets had been **WOEFULLY INADEQUATE**. This is the first time the European Court of Human Rights has ruled on global warming and therefore the first ever climate case victory in the history of the Court.

One commented " We are not made to sit in a rocking chair and knit ! We know that in 10 years we will be gone, we are not doing this for ourselves but for our children and grandchildren". Greta commented " This is only the beginning of climate litigation. We have to fight even more because in a climate emergency everything is at stake." The ruling is binding and can trickle down to influence the law in 46 countries in Europe including the UK.

The Swiss President Viola Amherd needed more time to read the fine detail of the ruling but she said that sustainability, biodiversity and net zero targets were very important to Switzerland. It must be of real concern that in the last two years Swiss glaciers have lost 10% of their volume.

The glaciers are an important source of water for the rivers when they melt, ensuring that the farmers can irrigate their crops, that the nuclear power stations can be cooled and that the level of water in the rivers can sustain the fish and give enough draft for the shipping. In the heatwave of 2022 fish were taken from rivers and put into large tanks because the shallow water was too warm for them to thrive. In 2023 shipping was restricted on the Rhine, it was too shallow, not enough water, I wonder what the situation will be this year? Glaciers are visible, their demise should alert us to take action!

Nearer to home, climate activists did a survey at Gatwick airport last Saturday, asking flyers if they thought the proposed expansion of Gatwick airport was a good idea. Not one of the people approached though it was necessary, Gatwick is big enough was their considered opinion. The activists were supported by the Red Rebels who silently make their presence known and attracted attention in a non challenging way. I was not with those to made the effort to go to the airport last week but I support them wholeheartedly. The plans to double the number of runways, increase the passengers to 80 million, flights to 100,000 per year will of course increase the carbon in the atmosphere at a time of climate crisis. It should not even be on the agenda. We have a General Election coming up this year, let's make sure we ask the candidates the right questions when we get the chance.

by Rosemary Horton



All members are very welcome to join our next Quarterly Climate Change meeting via Zoom on 29th April.

To participate contact (dbrittle@surreyfedwi.org.uk).

SALT

Skills, Activities and Learning Team

Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Tour



Many of our members recently had the chance to have a tour around the Air Ambulance KSS base at Redhill Aerodrome. We were warmly greeted and treated to a slideshow of how the charity and operations work. KSS Air Ambulance deliver world leading pre-hospital emergency care to the most critically ill patients 24 hours a day/365 days a year. On average they respond to 9 incidents a day. They can now perform life saving emergency chest and heart surgical procedures and blood transfusions be it at the side of a road or on a hillside and can reach any part of Kent, Surrey and Sussex within 30 minutes.

We learnt that, incredibly, 88% of their annual running costs of £18.8 million, come from donations. This emphasised how crucial donations are. It costs £45,000 to run one helicopter for one day. Each crew is manned by two pilots, a doctor and a paramedic with experience in critical care.

We were shown the Medical Cabin Simulator, a mock-up of the helicopter which enables the medical teams to practice procedures - this was impressive to see. There is also a Patient and Family Aftercare service to support rehabilitation and recovery, so links are still kept with the patient after their traumatic experience. A great addition.



All in all an informative day out for and a worthy cause to support.

by Christine Grove

SFWI are running an extra two KSS Ambulance tours on Wednesday 4 September. Bookings open on 17 June via the website and the form on the last page of Surrey WI News.

Getting the most out of your MEMBERSHIP

INSPIRING WOMEN... to learn and grow

We hope that you are enjoying your membership of the WI, whether it's in your own WI or via SFWI and NFWI learning and activities.

SFWI and NFWI continue to offer and expand our range of opportunities for members, enabling all women to develop their personal skills, interact with like-minded women, share experience and knowledge, in a range of easily accessible training courses, activities and projects.

NFWI send out 8 copies of WI Life to every member whose details are correctly recorded on the Membership Communication System (MCS).

SFWI publishes Surrey Women's Institute News (SWIN) which is available online, copies are sent to all Surrey WI members each month.

Information on events and workshops can also be found at: <https://surreyfedwi.org.uk/>

mywi.thewi.org.uk

On MyWI, NFWI have recently launched the WI Learning Hub, which provides an escape; a chance to build, or rediscover, a new hobby or career. From Crafts to Cooking and Business to Yoga - there is something for everyone. Why not browse the live and on-demand courses now?

Come along and join in, meet members from other WIs, learn new skills, take part in sporting activities, have FUN.

by Chris Butterfield

RESOLUTIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

Campaign to **Stop rapists from accessing children conceived through rape**

Many rape victims are forced to re-live their trauma when their abusers are allowed by the courts to see their children, even when they are in prison. Women who have been raped are having to share access of their children with the men who raped them. Some women are even having their children removed and custody given to the rapists. This is putting children and women at risk and is extremely distressing.

Campaigners are calling for a simple amendment to the Children's Act 1989 that would ban any male with a child conceived by rape from applying for access/rights. However past recommendations have faltered as governments thought it undermined a man's right to a family under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act.

Under current law, men can receive access to a child conceived through rape, even though case law states that men should not be notified of their right to apply to access if they present a safeguarding risk to the parent or child.

If you would like to sign the petition set up by Sammy Woodhouse, who is being backed by Sheffield Heeley MP Louise Haigh please use the link below:

<https://www.change.org/p/david-gauke-stop-rapists-from-accessing-children-conceived-through-rape>

Sammy Woodhouse is looking to get a full public investigation to make sure all mothers can come forward and share their experiences to make improvements. Advice and support needs to be made available to rape victims and professionals to make sure they're working within the law.

by Christine Grove

RESOLUTIONS AND CAMPAIGNS cont...



NATIONAL VEGETARIAN WEEK IS IN MAY
and so Francis Harryman has decided to

FOCUS ON VEG!



People have various reasons for being a vegetarian but studies show having a mainly plant based diet can be a healthier way to eat. This may help with obesity, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. A plant based diet may also improve your blood pressure and lower the overall risk of cancer, but medical advice should be your prime source of information.

A well balanced vegetarian diet can include eggs, dairy, mineral rich foods and fortified plant alternatives. These may include soya, pulses, beans, nuts and seeds, wholegrain versions of bread, pasta and rice, plus lentils, dried fruit, leafy greens and fortified cereals - not forgetting plant milk options that are now easily available.

Plan meals carefully making sure that calcium, vitamins D and B12, protein and omega 3 essential fatty acids are sufficient in your diet and top up with minerals such as zinc found in sesame seeds, nuts, mushrooms and fresh fruit. Iron can be found in green vegetables, walnuts and dark chocolate, and you can find iodine in fish, yogurt, baked potatoes, strawberries, cranberries, eggs and dried seaweed.

Prepare fresh meals if possible and not rely on ready-made ones as they may contain more sugar and salts.

In this **VEGETARIAN MONTH OF MAY** try some of these simple meal ideas:

Spaghetti Bolognese using vegetarian mince or lentils with wholemeal pasta.

Jacket Potatoes with tasty toppings like cheese and beans, tuna or roasted vegetables.

Stir Fry with any number of vegetables adding garlic, ginger or chilli and a sweet and sour sauce. Serve with brown rice or noodles, udon or whole wheat.

Lentil Lasagne with wholemeal pasta.

Macaroni cheese.



BON APPETIT!

HOARDING is a recognised mental health condition....

Hoarding can be a real issue; an obsession in fact. It can be where you find it difficult to get rid of items in your home even when space becomes limited or when most people would regard these items as not being useful.

People may hoard things because of;

- Fear that you or someone else will be harmed if you throw them away.
- Feeling an object may come in useful at a later point, or
- An emotional attachment to the item.

There is help for those who think this might concern them.

OCDUK: www.ocduk.org/contact-us www.ocduk.org

Hoarding UK (National Charity for people impacted by hoarding behaviour):

02032391600 info@hoardinguk.org www.hoardinguk.org/

National Pack Rat Day is on 17 May when we can start to clear out unwanted or unneeded items.



OVER TO YOU!

Please send your Over To You! entries of approximately 100 words to surreywinews@surreyfedwi.org.uk attaching any photos. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month - dependent on space.

CLAYGATE VILLAGE WI

The Claygate Village WI embraced the Bunnies and Bees of Spring at its March meeting.

The speaker for the evening was Peter Smith whose topic was "A Taste of Honey". Peter gave a very interesting talk on all aspects of honey from its history to its current standing in supermarkets, local markets and all its benefits. We learned the difference between raw, pure and mass-produced honey and ways to tell the differences. Peter also gave us small samples of various honeys to try, including the honey he produces in the Surrey Hills which, through a blind tasting vote, proved to be the most popular!



After tea the members made some 'Bunny Bunting'! Lots of laughter and fun was had during the cutting out, preparing, and finishing the end item - there will be many strings of "Bunny Bunting" hanging up in and around Claygate this Easter thanks to CVWI! **Gillian Hall**

CAMBERLEY WI

Camberley WI had a huge turnout at our March meeting to listen to speaker Hayley Scott of The Forensic Experience.

Hayley spent 14 years working as a Crime Scene Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. She gave a fascinating talk on the world of forensics, sharing processes followed when investigating crimes, along with facts and anecdotes from examining over 15,000 crime scenes. We were kept enthralled. Who knew that our unique fingerprints are not genetic but formed at between 6-20 weeks in the womb? The amniotic fluid pressure on the pads of the hands forms the ripple like lines. How mind blowing is that! Each person has their own unique fingerprints, even identical twins!



Members also enjoyed their visit to the Mill at Sonning. We were shown some of the amazing costumes created by their wardrobe department and learned some of the secrets of stage make-up. Then it was time to visit the workshop to see how the scenery was built, before finally indulging in the delicious sandwiches and cakes provided by the venue.

Paula Zymela

OVER TO YOU!

BEACON HILL WI

Our March meeting Speaker was local author of several books, Gill Thompson. A really well presented talk about her books and the research which goes into them. So resonant at this time of children from Ukraine having apparently disappeared in Russia. No spoilers. Book her and enjoy!

In April we welcomed Tom Mcinulty, speaking to us about Guide Dogs and bringing his own guide dog, Toby, to meet us all.

We are fresh from our visit to Air Ambulance at Redhill, Table Top Sale and now looking forward to our Skittles Evening. Do we ever stop? No! I'll let you know how we get on.

Valerie Harris

HERSHAM EVE WI

We had a very interesting talk from Rowan Perkin about her organisation which provides Therapy Dogs to schools. They are able to give great help to the children that need support with their learning and behaviour.

Sue Cox



CLAYGATE WI

For Claygate's March meeting it was a return visit from Susan Howe, whose talk was "Animals in history and in the lives of their famous owners". In Susie's relaxed and entertaining manner, she told us stories about prisoners of war wanting to have more fleas so that the jailers didn't come near them, a kangaroo who was taught to open the door to see off over enthusiastic fans, a cat who squeezed through prison bars to bring food to an inmate, and everything else in between.

After our tea break we moved to different tables to sit with people we didn't know so well for our version of speed dating. The subjects were: Where were you brought up? What was your favourite job and why? What is your favourite book or film?

By the end of the very lively session we had discovered the truth in the adage, "A stranger is a friend you haven't yet met".

Wendy Cannon

BISLEY WI

We were delighted to welcome Katie Wilson of "Sight for Surrey" for a very interesting afternoon. Sight for Surrey is a charity offering assistance, not only to the blind, but to the deaf and deaf/blind. We had three deaf visitors and Katie was accompanied by a translator to support our guests as well as by a Sight for Surrey volunteer.

Volunteers help people with those things that most of us do without thinking - shopping, filling in forms if you are blind and trying to get a doctor's appointment if you are deaf. - hard enough for the rest of us!!!

An interesting afternoon in which we may have gained three new members!

Barbara Rothwell



OVER TO YOU!

PURLEY CROSS WI

On a beautiful, crisp, sunny Friday which coincided with International Women's Day, a group from Purley Cross WI plus friends went on a 5.5 mile walk around North London. This was led by inveterate walker, Diana Stainbank and started at St Pancras Station.



The beautiful, Anglo Catholic, St Pancras Old Church was the first stop where Thomas Hardy worked in the cemetery and where Mary Shelley (she of Frankenstein fame) is buried.

It is thought to have dated back to the 12th century but might have even been earlier. A lovely saunter along the Regents Canal in glorious sunshine followed. Eventually Camden Lock and Market were reached where a much welcomed break was had and steps were retraced via the HS2 site to the station. £100 was raised for Shelter, Diana's charity of choice. The picture shows some of the group in front of the German Gymnasium which was the first gym built in the country specifically for women.

Tricia Davies

LIMPSFIELD VILLAGE WI

At our recent meeting we were entertained with a fascinating talk given by Sophie Fryer entitled "Hats Off". We learnt that the word Milliner comes from the word Milan which was the hub of the world's textile and fashion trade in the Middle Ages. The centre for millinery in the UK is Luton - hence their football team is called "The Hatters". The term Mad Hatter comes from a disease, better known as mercury poisoning. Hatters breathed in toxic mercury fumes resulting in "mad" behaviour. (Not originally Alice in Wonderland, but coined by Lewis Carroll!) After her talk, WI members had great fun trying on some of Sophie's fabulous hand-made hats.

Maureen Bunt



MOLESEY WI

Our April speaker was Kristen Perrin, a local author who has just published her debut crime novel - How To Solve Your Own Murder - which is already creating quite a buzz both here and in the US. Kristen started writing at a young age, but had been discouraged from making a career of it. Luckily things changed and despite over 150 rejections over 3 books her determination was rewarded.

How to Solve Your Own Murder - has been translated into 20 languages, and the film rights have already been sold. It was also lovely to welcome Megan from Denny's Books in Thames Ditton who had helped us secure copies of Kristen's book at a discounted rate and arranged to have them at the meeting to be signed by Kristen.

It was a fascinating and entertaining evening and there was a very real sense of sharing in the early days of what looks like becoming a very successful publishing career.

Sue Adam



Kristen & Megan

OVER TO YOU!

ST JOHN'S WI

At our March meeting, we had a very positive talk from Sam Jones and Hayley Fellows, fundraiser & manager at our local hospice, the Woking and Sam Beare Hospice and Well-being Centre. Sam explained that the Centre offers practical and emotional support for all involved, patients and families, from diagnosis, throughout treatment, end of life care and help to work through grief for those left behind. We were impressed to learn that 80% of care is provided to patients in the community or their own home, with 24 hour care taking place in 20 in-patient beds and the Bradbury Well Being Day Centre.

Currently the Centre helps 360 patients and a further 70 family members from NW Surrey at a cost of £10 million per year of which 30% is provided by the NHS. The hospice therefore relies greatly on fundraising, donations and volunteers.



We held a bring and buy sale on the evening with all proceeds going to the hospice. They also accept donations at <https://wsbh.org.uk/>
Wendy Cooke

OTTERSASHAW NIGHT OWLS WI



Ottershaw Night Owls enjoyed an evening discovering the history of chocolate and then tasting different types of chocolate. The evening was presented by Karen and her sister from The Chocolate School workshops.

We learnt that the first cocoa tree was cultivated in Mexico and water was added to the beans to make a drink. This had a rather bitter flavour but in the 1600s beans were shipped to Spain where sugar was added. The first chocolate bar was made by Fry's in 1748. We were advised on what ingredients to look for when buying chocolate and watched a demonstration on tempering chocolate. The talk finished with a delicious raspberry truffle.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Jane Phipps

KINGSTON WI

Jason Sandy, was the speaker at Kingston WI's recent meeting. Jason is a member of The Society of Thames Mudlarks and has been mudlarking for 11 years, during which time he has found so many interesting and historic artefacts along the shores of the Thames, some of which he brought along for members to see and examine. Amongst his finds were a Roman hairpin, a medieval knuckle guard, and a WWII helmet!



The first mudlarks appeared in the late 18th Century, and were poor people looking for practical items to use or sell. Today, mudlarks are looking for historical objects and artefacts - at low tide, the Thames beaches are the largest archaeological site in Britain. Jason has made some major discoveries, some of which are now on permanent display in the Museum of London, the Natural History Museum and the V & A.



OVER TO YOU!

LIGHTWATER WI



Last month Lightwater WI started two new monthly groups, an Art Group (which joined the Craft, Colour, Chat and Chill groups), and a Darts group. Both went very well and seem to be a great success. There were a few really good darts players who obviously had a misspent youth!!! Our group have also been helping to crochet poppies for the Normandy Landings celebrations in June which will be a great spectacle.

Five new people came to see if they'd like to join us this month and our monthly talk was by Sheila Willis called "Beside the Seaside". Sheila told us the history of the seaside via its transport, places to stay, early entertainment, fashion, food and postcards. We were able to reminisce and think of summer holidays to come, after a week of rain.

Kate Kemp

POLLARDS OAK WI

Spring brings hope and new life and members of Pollards Oak have been busy working with Chartwell National Trust on two Spring projects. The first, to design and create two Pollards Oak WI silk flags for their Easter event with the parade of flags on 26th March at Chartwell.

The design was to tell a story of the changing of the seasons. This involved attending design workshops and a visit to creative company Kinetika Studios for the flags to be waxed.



The second project was to knit or crochet nearly 300 flowers and attach them to netting to create the most

beautiful wall of flowers which is currently on display in the Butterfly House at Chartwell marking the end of their Easter trail and after this it will be displayed at Emmetts Gardens in Ide Hill.

Jane Moore



OUTWOOD WI

Last month we chased away the April showers in our meeting with music and laughter. Our visiting speaker was Debbie Lewington – a longtime associate of the Peggy Spencer academies – who treated us to a lively presentation about the history of ballroom dancing. She began with a quote: "To dance is to be out of yourself – larger, more beautiful, more powerful". As well as being empowering, she explained how the rhythms and patterns involved in moving to music can improve physical well being and even hone timing skills for practical activities such as driving!

We learned how many of today's popular dances started in poorer communities around the world: like the Argentinian tango and the foxtrot. Several of our ladies shared their own experiences of dancing and there was some dispute about the more recent developments of traditional dances due to the popularity of entertainment shows like "Strictly Come Dancing".

Elizabeth Dyke

OVER TO YOU!

CHIPSTEAD EVENING WI

When Chris and Denise celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary recently, their thoughts turned to the memory of the dreadful accident they had in 2008 which might have prevented them from reaching this landmark.

Chris and Denise were living and working in Texas at the time. They were five months into their stay and were enjoying a road trip to the Rio Grand on Chris's Harley Davison. The conditions were perfect – a clear spring day and a flat straight road at 2.30 in the afternoon. Without warning, a car travelling at high speed crashed into them head-on. They both lost their left legs as well as other injuries which they recovered from in time. What helped them to survive was the speed with which they were airlifted to hospital. It was found that the driver who crashed into them was three times over the alcohol limit.

What Chris and Denise learnt most from their experience was their capacity for forgiveness. They felt no bitterness and were able to meet with the driver. Since then, Chris has achieved several feats of endurance, running in two marathons, cycling, swimming and even reaching the Mount Everest Base Camp.

What might be achieved by perseverance and mutual support.

We finished the evening by giving a toast to one of our founder members, Marion Brewster, who recently passed away.

Pat Fink

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

CHIDDINGFOLD WI CELEBRATES 105 YEARS!

Our President marked our 105th fifth year celebrations with a warm welcome and Wendy Pollington distributed posies to all our members.

Our speaker was Ken Bare, Vice-president of the Surrey Hills Society, who talked about the flora and fauna in Surrey and especially in the Surrey Hills: The Surrey Hills Society is an independent charity promoting the enjoyment and care of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Surrey is the most wooded county in England with 40-50% covered in trees and hedges, and 18% is heathland and commons which is sandy and home to smooth snakes, sand lizards and the nightjar. The chalk grasslands have thirty to forty plant species growing there. Events such as bug hunting and hedge-laying are held periodically and visits are organised to places of particular interest, including cave exploration and wine-tasting. The society was given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2018 presented by Prince Edward (as he was then) at Speaker's House and Ken's first book about the changes in the ten years of it's existence.

A delicious tea was provided by Pam Harlow and Susan Hodges and the winner of the competition of an old postcard of Surrey was Cis Denyer.

Helen Wiener

OVER TO YOU!

EASTWICK WI

How do you teach a dog to use a washing machine? This was among the topics covered by ex-Army band member Malcolm Wells in an amusing and entertaining talk to Eastwick WI. He works with Canine Partners, a charity providing helper dogs for disabled people.

On leaving school he joined the Army and became a member of the Royal Artillery Company's orchestra, playing the cello. After more training in playing wind instruments he was enrolled in a military band with many varied commitments. Members enjoyed hearing how he could find something funny in the most awkward or embarrassing situation like the time he went to Buckingham Palace to receive an MBE for his charity work and was mistaken for a member of the Palace staff!

As a medical orderly in the Gulf War he was impressed with the ability of the soldiers to deal quickly and efficiently with any situation.

Ann Renn



Canine Partners

Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

STONELEIGH WI



Some of Stoneleigh WI spent a creative afternoon using glass paints to decorate recycled glass bottles. We gleaned some ideas from the internet and we ended up with an interesting array of designs and different shaped bottles. The paints dried while we had tea, biscuits and a chat before filling the bottles with lights. It proved to be a very relaxing afternoon and we have been asked to repeat later in the year so we can have Christmas or winter themed bottles.

Cathy Taylor



TRUMPS GREEN WI



Trumps Green WI had an enjoyable evening having a go at Chi Ball. With many years of experience, Rosemary Ryder-Richardson guided us through the movements of the practice. It was a very gentle, coordinated session in which everyone participated and enjoyed.

Nicky Milner

OVER TO YOU!

HASLEMERE MORNING WI

Local antiques enthusiast, Rob Noble, spoke at our March meeting. He spent his working life in the antiques department of Harrods and he came to tell us about the luxury emporium started by Charles Henry Harrod in 1834. In the early years, Harrod was astute enough to recognise that many wealthy visitors to the Great Exhibition in 1851 would pass right by his store. As a result, by the turn of the century, the quality of goods he offered were decidedly upmarket. We heard tales about daring robberies and private police forces, exotic animals for sale and kennels where customers' pets could be cared for whilst their owners shopped. Rob told tales of many famous people, among them Michael Caine, Ronnie Corbett and Freddie Mercury, all of whom he said were charming. Foreign royalty were regular customers and Arab dignitaries often spent millions as they ordered furniture for entire mansions.

A particular anecdote amused us. Apparently, Noel Coward used to go and play the grand pianos which pleased the shoppers. When Liberace visited and was told about Noel, he too played the piano – but then sent a £100 bill to the management for entertaining the customers!

Fay Foster

THAMES DITTON WI

In March, Thames Ditton WI had a film themed afternoon with guest speaker, award-winning camera operator Danny Bishop, a local resident, who has won a string of awards in recent years for numerous documentary and feature films. Danny was part of the team which won the Oscar for Best Cinematography in 2023 for the film *All Quiet on the Western Front*. He described how the film was made in Poland where French and German trenches were recreated on a disused airfield. During shooting, Danny developed a new camera technique that enhances the realism. He often found himself standing in deep mud or remotely directing others who were holding the camera and running through the trenches, all to get the right shot.



WI members were thrilled to meet Oscar himself, who Danny brought along. He is being held in the photograph by Sue Bishop, Danny's mum. Everyone was surprised by how heavy the Oscar statuette was, as it is made of gold-plated solid bronze and weighs 8.5 lbs.

Diane Clements

Have you noticed our SFWI NOTICE BOARD?

Click the 'Notice Board' button on the homepage of our website (<https://surreyfedwi.org.uk/>) to see our Notice Board which is regularly updated with information, offers, events and advice. To add your WI event, email a flyer to info@surreyfedwi.org.uk

BOOKING FORM FOR EVENTS AND COURSES

Online: Bookings can be made for groups or individuals via www.surreyfedwi.org.uk, or by sending an email to info@surreyfedwi.org.uk giving your name and address, WI, which course/event you are applying for and state the amount paid. Please pay by bank transfer to: Surrey Federation of WIs, sort code 60-09-21, account number 01028499, giving your surname and course/event name as a reference.

Booking 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 write the event name and your name on the back. If paying by BACS see details in the paragraph above and state on the booking form when the payment was made.

Members can apply individually, or on behalf of more than one person, for all courses/events using methods listed above.

Group bookings can be made through your Treasurer. If so, money MUST be collected by your treasurer before tickets are applied for. This is a requirement of charity law. An invoice will be sent to your treasurer for a WI group booking after the 'bookings open' date shortly after places are confirmed along with any other information about the event. Treasurers are requested to settle all invoices (together with any other monies owed) in one payment, preferably online.

ALL BOOKINGS: please supply the office with a list of names and include any dietary/allergy requests.

BOOKING DETAILS:

Your name:

Your WI:

Your phone no:

Your email:

List of attendees:

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	NO OF TICKETS
Member Chat and Catch Up via zoom	21 May	no charge	
Turner Seascapes (Bookings now open)	22 May	£25	
Annual Supper Quiz (Bookings now open)	24 May	£14	
Mozzarella and Halloumi Cheese Workshop (Bookings now open)	8 June	£55	
FILLED CHOCOLATE AND TRUFFLE WORKSHOPS - click here to book online	1 and 2 June	£55	
Treasurer Workshop	10 June	£9	
SUMMER ENTERTAINING COOKERY DEMO - click here to book	11 June	£30	

more events on next page.... 



<https://surreyfedwi.org.uk/>



BOOKING FORM FOR EVENTS AND COURSES

EVENT	DATE	PRICE	NO OF TICKETS
Faberge Style Strawberries (Bookings now open)	12 June	£40	
New Speaker Auditions AM (Bookings now open)	14 June	£5.00	
New Speaker Auditions PM (Bookings now open)	14 June	£5	
New Speaker Auditions ALL DAY (Bookings now open)	14 June	£9	
Members Chat and Catch Up via zoom	18 June	no charge	
Treasurer Workshop	25 July	£9	
FILLED CHOCOLATE AND TRUFFLE WORKSHOP - click here to book online	16 July	£55	
Member Chat and Catch Up via zoom	16 July	no charge	
Croquet Taster Day (bookings open 3 June)	30 August	£50	
KSS Air Ambulance Tour am Bookings open 17 June	4 September	£10	
KSS Air Ambulance Tour pm Bookings open 17 June	4 September	£10	
Ladies wot Lunch Stump Workshop Bookings open 22 July	10 September	£40	
Cheddar Cheese Workshop Bookings open 1 July	14 September	£55	
Literary Lunch with Cecily Blench Bookings open 17 June	20 September	£39	

