



In **January** Bronwen and her husband Anthony from Combat Academy, Guildford demonstrated simple moves to help us to defend ourselves in the event of an attack and about how we think and act can affect our ability to avoid and deal with an attack. They also told us about the work that the Combat Academy is undertaking with school children to counteract bullying and increase children's self confidence

In **February** Heidi Eldridge (founder of the MAMA Academy) gave a moving and inspiring talk about starting her charity. We were shocked to learn that the UK has one of the highest rates of still birth in the developed world. 17

babies die every day. The charity aims to educate mothers and midwives. We presented Heidi with the money we have raised so far but were definitely inspired to raise more.



In **March** thanks to Delybe and Sylvia for a thoroughly enjoyable evening where nearly all the ladies who attended, gathered onto the floor and danced their moves in time to the music. We were all concentrating so that we went in the right direction and didn't step on too many toes! It was a fun evening with lots of laughter.

In **April** John Palmer gave an entertaining talk which included useful information for those new to gardening and helpful pointers to enable us to keep fit whilst we garden.

In **May** we had a great day at Ottershaw May Fair selling cakes to raise funds and talking to people about our WI.

At our May meeting we learnt about the Runnymede Foodbank which provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis.



In **June** we were very pleased to welcome Tamara Melvin, who was a runner-up in the Great British Sewing Bee in 2014, to our June meeting.



Tamara explained how her love of sewing had begun and developed as she grew up and about her experiences as a sewer and on the television programme.

After such an interesting talk I am sure that many of us resolved to get out our sewing machines and get sewing!

We had a wonderful Singing Workshop in **July** with Pam Wedgwood and at the end of the evening felt energised and keen to sing some more. Pam is recognised around the world as one of the UK's most prolific and successful composers of popular repertoire. She is a primarily a musician rather than a singer and stepped in at the last moment to run the workshop. She leads the Equippers Community Choir with her colleague Sarah.



We had an informal **August** meeting at the President's home.

In **September** we held a special party to celebrate the Centenary of the WI and a good time was had by all! We dressed up in costume from the past 100 years. There were flappers and land girls, hippies and miniskirts but Votes for Women was the winner. Drinks were served on arrival and we had fun trying to guess what was written on the sticker on our back and finding our partner.

Our meeting began with the singing of Jerusalem. Each committee member represented a different decade and told us a little bit about what was happening in



their era. After the formal business we enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by members and tried to identify local scenes from the past. At the end of the meeting prizes were awarded (Dig for Victory was the winning table decoration) and the Draw for a Denman Bursary was held (The winner was ecstatic!)

Our **October** meeting was very well attended. Hamish, a retired Metropolitan Police

Detective Inspector, recalled some of his cases to highlight the mental distress that



being stalked can cause and gave details of some of the stalkers' characteristics. He also warned of the dangers of giving away personal information on social media.

At our Annual General Meeting, in **November**, the Annual Report highlighted the variety of activities which the Ottershaw Night Owls had been involved in. Thanks were given to our retiring Secretary and a

new committee member was welcomed. The Raffle raised funds for our charity MAMA and we finished off the evening with a successful Shwapping session.

In **December** the English Shuffleboard Company from Hove visited. The tournament generated a great deal of interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment. Those not playing appreciated the wonderful selection of festive refreshments kindly provided by members. The winners scored an amazing 373! Secret Santa was a great way to finish the evening.