

January - Club Dancefit

January saw us working off the Christmas Pudding by throwing ourselves into some energetic dance moves led by Dede McGarrity. We danced in the dark waving our glow sticks. An impressive number of ladies made it through to the end of the 45 minute session!



February – The road to RHS Chelsea

We listened to a fascinating talk from Joanne and Daniel Jackson of Ottershaw Cacti, about these wonderful plants. Joanne described how Daniel's interest in cacti started with the purchase of a single plant when he was just 11 years old, to develop into his current collection of 12,000 plants and 9 greenhouses! A full hall of WI members watched slides of the couple's journey to exhibiting at the 2018 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, an explanation of how the judging works and their delight at winning gold.



March Meeting - Fast Women, Fast Track

We had an amazing turnout including 10 visitors! Tim Morris, from Brooklands Museum, gave us a fascinating talk about some of the most famous lady racing drivers who drove at Brooklands in the early days of motoring. A packed evening was rounded off by meeting 3 representatives and a dog from Surrey Search and Rescue telling us a little about what they do and how the money we raise will help them. A big thank you to the ladies on the tea rota who had a more challenging job than usual.



April Meeting - A Gem on our Doorstep

Once again, we had a full hall and it was lovely to have so many of our members joining us for the evening.

Dr Kathy Miller took us through the history of the area now known as Hare Hill Open Space and then gave us a fascinating insight into the flora and fauna that the area supports.



May Meeting – The Garden Centre Revolution

We had a very entertaining evening learning about the history of Bourne Valley and getting some helpful hints and tips for looking after container plants in our gardens. Well done to the two lucky ladies who won the hanging basket and the planter - hope you got them home without incident!

We welcomed two new members and our membership stands at 98 which is absolutely amazing!



June Meeting – The Ferguson's Gang

Once again, we had a fantastic turn out with 73 members and 2 visitors.

Sally Beck introduced us to the Ferguson's Gang who were active in raising awareness of the National Trust in its early days. Their eccentric fund raising directly led to several historic buildings being rescued from ruin.

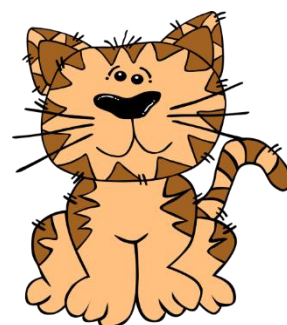
We also had a quick run through some of the on-line information available to us using MyWI, Facebook and our own website.



July Meeting – Cats Protection

Thanks to Maggie Stoker for a fascinating insight into the minds of cats and why it is not worth even trying to understand them! She told us some heart-breaking stories of the cruelty some of them suffer and the amazing work done by Cats Protection.

We also presented a cheque for over £1000 to **Surrey Search and Rescue** all due to members generosity in supporting our coffee mornings and other events. They were genuinely taken aback by the donation.



September Meeting – The Power of Colour

We had another amazing turnout with 6 visitors and 1 new member this month, so a big thank you to you all for your continued support.

Lesley Dingley, of Colour Me Beautiful, gave us a fascinating insight into the different groups of colours that suit different people. A few volunteers had their colours assessed in front of the audience and lots had a quick private consultation after her talk.

If anyone wants to take Lesley up on her offer of a discounted consultation she can be contacted on lesley.dingley@essenciahr.co.uk



October Meeting – Our 6th Birthday Party

Another fantastic turn out with 5 new members, two visitors and 3 guests, 2 from SURSAR and Joy our Runnymede Group Co-ordinator.

I hope that all of you who could attend the party enjoyed the evening and had as much fun as we did organising it. Jelly Kelly entertained us with her magic show with her 'willing' volunteers. Seeing Sal with her head in a box having swords thrust in to it was a sight not to be missed. Linda, who was the inspiration and driving force behind the creation of the Night Owls 6 years ago, cut the cake for us.

A big thanks to the committee who worked so hard preparing the games, food, drink and decorations and also all those who helped before, during and after the party with setting up, washing up and clearing away. Special thanks to Sarah for her Brucie impersonation!



November - Annual Meeting

We had a busy evening with a very valuable demonstration of CPR and also instruction about how to use a defibrillator. Hopefully we will all feel more prepared to have a go if the need should ever arise. Don't forget to load the What3words app on to your phone.

This was followed by the formal business of our Annual Meeting. The minutes are attached together with the financial report and the committee's annual report.

I am very honoured to have been selected as your President for another year and to welcome Jane Phipps to our committee following the resignation of Sally Gane and Lisa Hawkins. Both of these ladies have been on the committee since the start of Ottershaw Night Owls and are both ex-Presidents so we are losing a lot of experience.



December Meeting – Christmas Entertainment

We were greeted by Santa and mulled wine at the start of our festive Christmas meeting. The committee bravely performed a WI version of the 12 Days of Christmas, with thanks to Wendy for the idea and the words. Two Elf videos added to the jollity. A seasonal quiz and a slide show of everything we got up to in 2019 completed the very enjoyable evening.

