

## **December 2016 - Singalonga Christmas..**

Our new president introduced Pam Wedgewood and Sarah Jones from the Equippers Community Choir who taught us several Christmassy tunes, including “The Christmas Song - Chestnuts roasting on an open fire” and the hilarious “The Twelve Days After Christmas” with great audience participation, verbally as well as musically. Afterwards, we enjoyed time to chat and drink mulled wine or fruit punch and a mince pie. The Secret Santa gifts were collected.

## **November 2016 - Annual Meeting**

The November meeting was our official Annual Meeting. Our joint presidents stepped down after three years dedicated service and our new president was elected. Members were asked to vote for the charity we will support next year and the winner will be announced at the December meeting. The official business was followed by some lively games and mind bending puzzles that kept everyone entertained until well after home time!

## **October 2016 - Shopping Evening**

The October meeting afforded members the chance of some early Christmas shopping with thirteen stall holders displaying clothing, jewellery, candles, material, Christmas puddings, handbags and Traidcraft goods. Everyone was given a free raffle ticket on admission for the chance to win one of several prizes. It was also an opportunity for everyone to chat with other members.

## **September 2016 - Riding it out.....**

In September our speaker was Pam Goodall, who entertained us with interesting tales from her round-the-world bicycle ride. She left Horsham in May 2000 on her hand-built Roberts bike and travelled 10,000 miles visiting 22 countries in just over a year. Pam was amazed and heartened by the thoughtfulness, kindness and friendship of complete strangers who laundered her clothing, fed her, provided first aid, allowed her to shower or camp in their gardens and gave advice and encouragement.

## **July 2016 - Jam, Jerusalem and Porridge**

Our speaker was Angeline Gore, from Trumps Green WI. In 2008, Angeline helped establish the first ever WI in a women’s prison, HMP Bronzefield near Ashford. She referred to the WI’s campaign ‘Care not Custody’ and explained how, supported by Surrey WI advisers Jill and Jan, being a member of the WI gave the offenders the opportunity to have some normality and an experience which might help them after their release. She chronicled the ups and downs of the whole process, with some amusing anecdotes including staff mistakenly defrosting cakes meant for a coffee morning and the allocation of knitting needles. Although no longer working at Bronzefield, she joined in 2004, providing housing advice and ensuring women had accommodation lined up on release. She received a Butler Trust award in 2012-13, from the Princess Royal at Buckingham Palace, and displayed her certificate, along with a photograph taken after the ceremony and a cupcake, knitted by an offender.

## **June 2016 - The Language of the Fan**

Kerry Wolf made a dramatic appearance in full Georgian costume, for her talk and display of artefacts on "The Language of the Fan and 18th Century fashion" Kerry had worked as a National Trust Conservation Assistant at Clandon Park prior to the fire and is now based at Hatchlands Park. In a lively and interesting way, she explained how Georgian ladies used coded signals in the ballroom to attract a secret admirer. She also divulged weird facts about 18th Century life and the truly bizarre lengths women went to with their hair, lead-based make-up and gowns to perfect the amazing fashions of the Georgian period.

## **May 2016 - Member Art and Craft Event**

Our May meeting was a chance for members to showcase a craft that they do at home or at a class. We also had demonstrations and very useful hints and tips from some very crafty ladies. It proved to be a very successful and sociable evening and confirmed what a talented group of ladies the members of ONOWI are.

## **April 2016 - A Life with My Voice**

Anita Downey displayed dressed dolls, furniture, a French patisserie dolls' house and photographs of her replica of the Adam House (near the Savoy) which she had painstakingly created. Anita's early years were spent in Malaysia where contact with Poona, a seamstress, started a lifelong love of fabrics and colour. In later life, this interest prompted Anita to use fabric, plastic, wood and metal materials to make dolls houses as her hobby. Quoting two classic poems, "Upon Westminster Bridge" by William Wordsworth and "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, Anita illustrated parts of her life. As her unusual story unfolded, she revealed how the voice of learning, the voice of understanding and the voice of sharing had affected her own development.

## **March 2016 - Woking Dance Space**

Woking Dance Space is a non-profit making organisation that provides access to dance for adults within the community, whatever their age, experience or previous training. They run classes in many dance disciplines, participate in performances and provide a place for people to meet and explore what is both a creative and beneficial interest.

Members followed Shani Nash as she led us through a series of steps and mini-routines associated with different dance genres including contemporary, tap and ballet. Many ladies exhibited excellent posture and a sense of rhythm and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, even if their steps (and arms) were not quite as coordinated as Shani's!

## **February 2016 - A Paramedic's Life**

Tina, a Paramedic with the London Ambulance Service, entertained us with her reminiscences about the job she continues to love despite its challenges. She also recalled amusing incidents on her sponsored bike ride around Cuba and mentioned her work for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) organisation of which Surrey Federation is a member. ACWW's view is that women are the backbone of most farming communities around the world and need support in order to help them to grow food and provide other necessities for their families. Surrey members help by collecting "Pennies for Friendship".

## **January 2016, New Year, New You!**

Tanya "The Toner" Collard, who is a personal trainer, explained the circumstances which led to her career changes from dental nurse, to accountant and personal trainer. She advised on nutrition, urged us to check sugar in processed foods and warned against following diet fads which might appeal as a "quick fix" but which would probably not be sustainable. She advised on what motivates people to exercise and emphasised that even a 15 minute daily walk would provide benefit. Many members left the meeting motivated to exercise more and eat less!