

December - Lammas Bells

December saw us being welcomed by Father Christmas to hear the amazing Lammas Bells entertain us with Christmas tunes on their hand bells. We even got to have a go ourselves - with varying degrees of success. Three eccentric ladies from the WI (Sarah, Sal and Ann) explained their various viewpoints about the WI to great hilarity, followed by a picture show covering the last five years. Mulled wine and mince pies added to the festive feel.

November - Annual Meeting

November saw our Annual Meeting where members of the committee gave their reports. The committee were re-elected with two members standing down and two new members joining. Val Duffy was selected as President for the next year and we chose Surrey Search and Rescue as our charity for the next two years. We then indulged in some retail therapy for the rest of the evening.

October - Women in WW1

Peter Batty discussed the varying roles of women in WWI and the impact on the role of women after the end of the war. He talked about the huge part women played in encouraging their men to join the forces and also in taking up men's roles in the workplace in their absence. Many women had to fight to be allowed to help, including those with medical skills, as it was still thought that women should be at home in the kitchen! He got us discussing various topics and had trouble getting us to stop again!

September - Dan the Fireman

Dan Pearson local resident and firefighter, started his speech off by saying that he was more nervous talking to our group than when he is fighting fires. He works for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. The Surrey Fire Service has 24 Fire Stations and they are funded by Surrey County Council. He said how important it was that all the services worked together. When the Fire Brigade are present at an accident for instance, the Police and Ambulance Service would also be there, all working together. He specifically mentioned the Air Ambulance, praising them for their quick response and the work that they do assessing and dealing with a situation resulting in so many people owing their lives to them. He talked about the fire at Grenfell Towers and said how harrowing it was for everyone involved and of course especially the families, everyone in the hall empathised with him. His talk ended with a lengthy applause to show the appreciation to Dan and the Fire Brigade in general.

July

Unfortunately there was a mix up with our speaker who was double booked and was somewhere else! We all had a good chat over a tea or coffee and were home in time to see England beat Colombia in the penalty shoot out!

June - Social Evening

In June we had a fun social evening, starting with a glass of fizz. There were a series of games and quizzes and it was surprising what a competitive lot we turned out to be! Hopefully a great time was had by all.

May - The Plight of Bees

Lorraine and Kevin from Surrey Bees who met 8 years ago through beekeeping. Lorraine said that they have 150 colonies between them. Bees can travel 3 kilometres from the hive and go to 2,500 flowers in a day and they exhaust one variety of flowers at a time, working 10 hours a day. The worker honey bee lives for 5-6 weeks and they always die outside of the hive. Lorraine showed the members various slides, the first being a slide showing what we would have on our table to eat if there were no bees, it was very sparse. In China the bees have been killed off by the use of pesticides and the Chinese are now having to pollinate by hand. Lorraine said that everyone needed to plant bee friendly plants and flowers, preferably those native to the UK.

April - Cake pops and party treats

Local cake maker Sophie Winship demonstrated how to make and decorate cake pops. She created some amazing monkeys and also handed round sheep, pigs and strawberries that she had made earlier. She also talked about how to make tasty treats for children to encourage them to eat all sorts of food, sometimes without knowing it!

March - A Little Birdie Told Me

Hannah Lane, who graciously stepped in at the last minute to talk about garden birds and how they fit into our gardens. Hannah was informative and interesting, using slides to explain about the different birds. She spoke of their eating habits, she encouraged the members to buy feed from reputable companies. She gave the members helpful tips: she said it was important to keep bird feeders and tables as clean as possible to prevent the bird's feet getting infected. Not to put peanuts out in the summer as the adult birds may take them back whole to their chicks and this could prove fatal and if possible to plant bushes for the birds.

February - Surrey Search and Rescue

Rosie Jordan from Surrey Search and Rescue explained to us their role working with the emergency services locating missing people. They are the equivalent of the mountain rescue or RNLI and look after the bit in between - 'From hills to high water'. She gave us some examples of their missions including finding vulnerable adults who had gone astray and helping rescue people from their flooded houses. They are all volunteers and their work is funded by donations. We were all very impressed by their levels of training and dedication to helping others.

January - Ballet Be Fit

Kate Broughton from Kate's School of Dance put us through our paces in a fun exercise class based around classical ballet techniques. We all discovered muscles we didn't know we possessed and had a lot of fun. Check out Kate's website for local classes to keep up the good work for 2018.