

May 2015 Newsletter

Camberley Diamond WI

St. Mary's Church & Centre, Park Road, Camberley, GU15 2SR

President: Christine Craig



At our April meeting representatives from HMP/YOI Bronzefield in Ashford gave us an insight into 'Life Behind Bars' in a women's prison when they recounted tales and experiences of their daily life there. Apart from being a punitive institution, the prison actively encourages education. It offers courses in a variety of subjects – English, Maths, Beauty, Commerce and Business. Women also engage in many work activities – decorating, gardening, cleaning and catering. All of this is geared towards resettlement into everyday life. We were heartened to hear how the detainees support each other throughout their time. What was particularly touching was how the younger women respect and care for their elderly companions, regarding them as surrogate Mothers or Grandmothers. We heard about one particular elderly lady who is affectionately known as 'Gangster Granny'!

HMP/YOI Bronzefield is the first prison in the country to have its own WI, the Bronzefield Bees, and there are 45 - 55 members. Membership of the WI helps to give back some degree of self-respect to these women. It allows them to engage in WI activities and they welcome outside speakers and communicate with other WIs.

A group of us are going to the Bronzefield Bees coffee morning on 19 May and look forward to joining in their celebrations of the Baton Relay Event. Don't forget that we are collecting Art and Craft materials for their WI. Please bring any donations to our monthly meetings or contact me to arrange collection.



Future Meetings

8 June First Aid Talk and Demonstration

We never know when we may be faced with a medical emergency that we have to deal with ourselves. This talk will give us advice on what we should do and then we can practise what we have learnt on life like adult and child dummies.

13 July West Green House Gardens

Since Marilyn Abbott took over the lease of West Green House in 1993 she and her team have restored the gardens and park, introduced Opera in the Garden and won a silver gilt medal at Chelsea in 2014. Find out more!

Visits

18 April Bletchley Park

This was a very enjoyable and interesting day with so many fascinating things to see. Thank you Debbie for organising it.

Next visit

20 May The Producers

A combined visit to the Lightbox to see Damien Hurst's New Religions Exhibition followed by The Producers at Woking Theatre

26 June Portsmouth

July West Green House gardens – a guided tour. This will follow the talk by Gareth Manning, head gardener, at our July meeting.

11 May 2015 – The Role of Women in WW1

Find out more about the ways in which women supported the war effort in WW1. Andy Robertshaw's talk will give an insight into the roles women carried out – many of them for the first time. This war work paved the way to greater rights and equality for women so it should be a fascinating talk.

You will also have the opportunity to vote on whether you want the Resolution 'Failing to care – assessment of need in long-term care' to be adopted for the NFWI 2016 campaign.

There will be a Raffle and, if anyone has anything they would like to sell, there is the Bring and Buy table. Valerie will have some of her eggs for sale. There are still lots of books on the Book Swap so please help us to reduce numbers and take a book if you see one you are interested in!

We are still *gathering ideas for the 2016 Programme of Events so please give us your suggestions for speakers and activities. Speak to/email one of the committee or post your ideas in the Suggestions Box by the noticeboard.*

SUBGROUPS – dates and venues for next meetings

Book Group	28 May 7.30 pm at Debbie's house
Coffee and Chat	11 May & 1 June 10.30 am Bill's, Park Street
Knitting & Crochet Group	14 May 7 pm at June's house
Sewing Bee	15 May 1.30 pm at Caroline's house
Gourmet Group	10 June 7.30 pm at So Asia, Camberley
Diamond Diners	22 May 7.30 pm at So Asia, Camberley
Walking Group	2 June at 10.30 am Frogmore Gardens
Sugar Craft	Monday 18 May 7.30 – 9.30 pm

For more information contact **Christine Craig** or visit our website

IN THE COMMUNITY

16 May	Farmers' Market, Park Street, Camberley
Until 13 June	Wartime Home Exhibition at Surrey Heath Museum
6 June	Wartime Bake Off Competition 12 – 4 pm
21 June	Cranleigh Show
12 Sept	West End Show

For more information on all Surrey Heath events visit www.surreyheath.gov.uk OR www.collectivelycamberley.co.uk



Surrey Federation News

19 May Bronzefield Bees coffee morning and Baton Relay event at Ripley Village Hall

28 Oct SFWI Autumn Meeting

NFWI News

2 June Royal Garden Party

4 June Annual Meeting at Albert Hall

25/26 Nov Open days for members at the London HQ

Please contact Sally Ellis for further information. Details will be on the WI noticeboard

Denman

Sylvie Collins is our Denman rep. Please email her if you go on a course as we have to send in numbers to the SFWI at the end of each year

RAFFLE AND REFRESHMENTS

We all enjoy the delicious refreshments we have at our meetings and our funds benefit from the raffle. Thank you to all of you for contributing so generously and please sign up if you haven't had a turn this year! The rota list is always by the noticeboards. The coordinators are Angela Docis for refreshments and Valerie Buttrley for the raffle.

CHARITY AND RECYCLING

BRONZEFIELD BEES WI

If you have any unwanted art and craft materials then please donate them to Bronzefield Bees WI. They always need materials and equipment for their thriving Art and Craft Group.

RECYCLING

At our meetings we collect British and foreign stamps, computer ink cartridges, old spectacles, plastic milk bottle tops (no other plastic tops), foreign coins, bras, mobile phones, buttons, zips and broken costume jewellery. We recycle these to the following charities: the Air Ambulance, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Vision Aid Overseas and the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).

Reminder: please separate foreign stamps from British stamps and leave a ½ cm border around stamps, if possible.

For more information about the charity collections please contact Ros Terry

BESOM

As you know, St. Mary's is a collection point for BESOM which, amongst other things, collects food to distribute to those in need in our community. Non-perishable items can be left on the chest in the church entrance. Current needs are tinned peas, tinned carrots, tinned fruit, custard, sugar, small pasta sauces, tinned meals like mince and curry, cereal, coffee and long life semi skimmed milk. The organisers of BESOM are very grateful for the regular support our WI has given.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

If you have a few hours to spare on Wed 2nd, Thurs 3rd, Fri 4th or Sat 5th September 2015. The church has asked for volunteers to help them redecorate the hall. They would be grateful for any time you can spare and partners and friends are very welcome. Tasty snacks are always provided!