

10th January 2022 at 20.00

Meeting by Zoom

Chaired by: Sarah Minister

Number of participants: 37 members and guests

Sarah Minister President welcomed everyone to the first meeting for 2022. She expressed regret that the meeting was by Zoom but as the rates of the omnicron variant of Covid was so high a decision was made to protect members from the virus plus the speaker had requested giving the talk by Zoom.

Business:

Sally Knipe, secretary invited members to contact her if they wished to virtually attend the National Federation WI meeting on 11th June 2022 that is being held in Liverpool.

Surrey is also running courses:

Beading 20th January

Hand Bell 22nd January
Workshop

Time for Tea 25th February

Get hooked on 20th April
crochet

Crochet course 27th April

The Annual Council Meeting Monday 21st March 2022 at Dorking Hall

The book sale will now take place at the February meeting

The planned quiz night for 5th February 2022 is being re-arranged for 26th March 2022 Members on Zoom were asked to comment on this re-arrangement and there was no objection to this decision.

Reminder that Denman courses are still available on line for £5 each.

<https://www.denman.org.uk/at-home/>

Sign up for Surrey Federation **newsletter** **<https://surreyfedwi.org.uk/resources/surrey-wi-news/>**

Email address for Wing **ashteadwing@gmail.com** for comments or ideas

Sarah Minister then introduced Diane Poole to speak on “Wildlife verges and gardens”

Diane and her husband decided after moving house to renovate the garden into a wildlife garden which combined their passion for gardening with supporting wildlife.

Diane said that their aim was to provide food for birds and animals, shelter, water and change how they managed the gardening in terms of stopping use of chemicals and

composting. The results have been rewarding as there is now more wildlife in the garden, although deer eating their roses are still discouraged.

She documented the transformation that was published in The WI magazine and inspired Bookham's WI groups to support The Blue Verges Campaign to increase biodiversity in grass verges. Surrey County Council now has agreed to changes to their mowing regime where sight lines are not affected and Blue Hearts made at The Grange Centre Bookham (supporting people with disability) mark the areas being transformed. Where the flora is allowed to flourish the wildlife follows. She recommends planting plug plants and watering if needed as seeds rarely flourish except on bare ground. Be patient and not too ambitious and involve the community to support initiatives.

Sarah thanked Diane for her inspiring talk and agreed that we would circulate links for members to view.

This was followed by an opportunity to talk in smaller groups before the meeting ended.

Date of Next Meeting 14th February 2022

>> If members are interested in following up they can contact Diane

Below or follow our Facebook pages @bookhambluehearts or

>> @bookhamopengardens. Feel free to circulate to your members.

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>> bookhambluehearts@gmail.com wildlife gardening and Blue Hearts

>> pfcbookham@gmail.com Plastic Free Bookham

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>> We would welcome a group visit to see our garden this summer and could take

>> interested folks up to see a nearby verge too.

>>

>> The Useful Links are given below and include details of where you can find

>> some of Steve's soothing videos

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>> Surrey Wildlife Trust

>> <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/act-wildlife/wildlife-gardening>

>> RHS <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/in-the-garden>

>> Wild About Gardens a partnership between the RHS and The Wildlife Trusts

>> <http://wildaboutgardens.org.uk>

>> Plantlife - wildlife gardening

>> https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower_garden

>> Plantlife - verges

>> <https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign>

>> Build a bug hotel

>> [https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/gard](https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/)

>> en-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/

>> Pollinator friendly meadow seeds Pictorial Meadows mixes were used at

>> Polesden Lacey a few years back and were used at the Olympic Park.

>> <http://www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk>

>> Native wildflowers Both plugs and seeds are available from

>> Landlife Wildflowers <https://www.wildflower.co.uk/>

>> Meadowmania <https://www.meadowmania.co.uk/>

>> Apply for Blue Heart Verge

>> <https://www9.surreycc.gov.uk/HighwayIssue/WhatIsTheIssue.aspx?&code=thgw-grs>

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>> Video of our garden Search YouTube for 'The Cottage Garden in Surrey'

>> 'The Cottage Garden - Summer Will Come Again' uploaded 20 Jan 21

>> Mason Bees - Bug Hotel Is Rocking! uploaded 6 May 16

>> Channel = Croonedaway, playlist - Garden Ring Cycle - this is videos for our

>> garden in each season and throughout the seasons - with soothing music

>> accompaniment