

Record of WI Meeting 13th July at 20.00 via Zoom

Chaired by Sally Knipe

Number of participants 28 plus speaker

Sarah Minister welcomed members to the meeting and then Sally introduced the speaker, Jane Shadworth who spoke about "A change in direction"

Jane was brought up on a small holding in Essex where she said that she took nature for granted. She graduated from Birmingham University and found employment in Manchester eventually working in IT and project management for Shell for 26 years. Shell supported her interest in the environment and she was able to participate in two Earthwatch Projects. The first was helping to collect data about palsas (peat mounds with a permanently frozen peat and mineral soil core.) deterioration in the McKenzie Mountains in Canada as part of the research into global warming and the second was netting and measuring birds in Brazil. While at Shell she tried to reduce Shell's impact on the environment, gained an environmental qualification as part of her journey to something different.

Jane used her leisure time to support environmental charities by campaigning and fundraising and went on volunteering holidays where she gained practical skills. She also made changes towards a more sustainable lifestyle by reducing consumption of natural resources and using overland transport where feasible. In 2016 she took voluntary redundancy and with her partner Ian went travelling and working for projects hosted by Worldwide opportunity on organic farms, Workaway and RSPB in Slovenia, Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Scotland.

In August 2020 Jane is to start as Project Manager for The RSPB Scotland's £738,000 Corncrake Calling project. The aim is to work with farmers, crofters and local communities on land management in an effort to boost numbers. This once common bird over all of Great Britain in the 19th Century now only breeds in the Hebrides and Orkneys and their numbers are declining.

Jane is not sure what the future afterwards will be after this 4 year project but plans to remain working towards sustainability and with the environment but her life is very different from her once corporate office world of Shell.

Sally thanked Jane for her talk and then we broke into small groups.

Business from Janet:

This year's WI membership has been extended to April 2021 and will run thereafter from April to April. The NFWI is supporting the campaign Black lives matter and uniting with 65 other organisations to make women more visible as women have suffered disproportionately during the Covid-19 crisis/lockdown.

July is plastic free month

Signposted to the Ashtead WIng website which has had Surrey WI magazine uploaded to it for viewing. Member's area is password protected. (You have it if you are reading this)

Denman College continues to provide on-line courses.

The Interest groups are meeting and the Walk and Talk group is planning their first "physically distance" walk since lockdown.

Questions

A member asked a question asked about finances. We are not paying for the hall at present so there is a good financial buffer for the extension of the membership. Our financial year is fixed and will not change. (Sept – Sept)

Date of next meeting 14th September 2020 at 20.00 by Zoom.

There may be a social event on 2nd Monday in August – yet to be arranged.

The meeting closed at approximately 10.00 pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Joint Presidents.....

Date

