

12th July 2021 at 20.00

Meeting on Zoom

Chaired by: Sarah Minister

Number of participants: 29 members plus speaker

Sarah welcomed members to the meeting

The speaker could not start her talk till 20.30 so the order of tonight's programme was reversed with business and breakout groups first and then the talk.

Update from special interest groups.

Gardening group - Janet Bickford has organised three trips this year and although members said that they preferred weekends for the visits the turnout for the week day one was much better. She has more gardens lined up to visit which need pre-booking so she will send out details. It includes the Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden in Dorking (dry weather needed) and Painshill Park on the National Garden 2for1 scheme and a Vineyard on 25th July.

Walk and Talk – Gillian Creedy and Kate Hudspeth have organised two walks. A walk around Denbies Wine Estate to South Humble and across Ashtead Common to a Pizza Van on Rushett Farm. The next one is a combined walk and foodie group picnic around Horton Country Park. There are more in the pipeline and they will be trying to offer a mixture of lengths.

Foodie Group – Kate Hudspeth we had a Mediterranean themed evening in Jane Cox's garden and then two combined with the walk and talk group – walk across to eat Pizza and in two day's time a Posh Picnic in Horton Country Park.

Showgirls – Jackie Smith - No dates planned yet as it will depend upon covid infection rates. Thought was maybe to support local venues such as Leatherhead Theatre and Epsom Playhouse.

Craft Group – Liz Phillips and Helen Jones. The group will be meeting first Monday every month and the next meeting is on 6th September. There will be a quick activity then planning for the rest of the year.

Book Groups – Sally Knipe- there are 3 book groups meeting regularly. However there may only be space in one.

Members wishing to join a group please email Ashtead Wing There is no commitment to attending the activities you will just receive the emails.

Sarah outlined the plan to have a social event on August 9th in the Leg of Mutton Pub in Ashtead and then covid restriction / infection rate allowing we will return to the Ashtead Baptist Hall in September.

More details will be emailed about the evening in August

Members were then put in breakout rooms to socialize for 10 minutes before welcoming our speaker Sian Fox.

Sarah Introduced Sian Fox who spoke to “It shouldn’t happen to a Home Economist but it has”. In her words “My talk is a light-hearted canter through my always varied and sometimes daft career as a Home Economist.”

At the age of 14 years old when school Sian was transferred from the Latin class to join her friends in the domestic science class her grandmother re-assured her that any woman who could cook would be appreciated. She enjoyed the subject and went on to study it at University where it was a scientific degree rather than a practical course at the same college that Mary Berry had attended.

After graduating she went on to work at The Trading Standards Office and then after a career break to work for Sainsburys Food Advisory team where she stayed for 23 years. This started out giving out the test samples in store through to helping GP surgeries giving dietary advice to taking part in the Sainsbury sponsored MEND scheme and Jamie Oliver’s school meals campaign. She is now giving talks to groups such as the WI and working on demonstration stands at large shows for kitchen equipment manufacturers.

So although she was not able to study Latin at school the knowledge that she gained in her home economic lessons at school then at University came in very useful – just as her grandmother had said.

Joint President Sarah Minister thanked Sian for her illuminating talk and members had an opportunity to ask questions.

The meeting closed at about 21.30

Signed

Date

Business from invitation email 11th July 15, 2021

August Social Get-together

There is no official meeting in August, but instead, we would be very happy if you could join us for a meal (or just a drink) at the Leg of Mutton Pub on The Street in Ashtead. We will be meeting at 7.30pm and have booked the outside covered area of the pub. Keep the date free and there will be more information following, regarding prices and menu choices. We will be asking members to drop us a quick email to ashteadwing@gmail.com to let us know that you will be eating with us before Saturday 7th August so we can manage numbers and let the pub know numbers in advance.

Interest Groups

On Monday, there will also be a chance to find out what some of our interest groups have been getting up to and learn about their future plans. We are lucky enough that our WI members have had opportunities recently for sociable and fun activities, some outside and others in smaller groups indoors, thanks to the interest groups. It's not too late to join one or more.

Future meetings with WIng

July 12th It shouldn't happen to a Home Economist

August 9th Social Get-together at the Leg of Mutton Pub

September 13th tba

October 11th 'The Jewels' dance troupe

November 8th Tall ships and sea shanties

December 13th Christmas festivities

January 10th Wildlife Gardens

Members' section of our website

On the Ashtead Wing website, <https://www.ashteadwing.co.uk/> you can now access members-only information. Lesley regularly updates this with information which may be of interest. The Password has now also changed to cake.

Denman Courses online_

For £5 each, you are able to access a wide range of courses run by the Denman experts covering many subjects, such as history, politics, cooking, crafting, exercise and music - the range is amazing! They come highly recommended and are available to book via <https://www.denman.org.uk/whats-on/>

You can sign up to receive the Surrey Federation newsletter at <https://surreyfedwi.org.uk/resources/surrey-wi-news/>

Please keep in touch - send us an email to ashteadwing@gmail.com, if you have any comments or ideas and we very much hope to see you at the next meeting.