

Churt WI

Face to Face meetings

We were fortunate to have a very interesting speaker for our first meeting this year. Joanna Bogle spoke with great enthusiasm about the Bridgettine nuns and their role in rescuing Jews in Rome during World War II. In particular, the role of a British woman, Mother Riccarda Hambrough who originally came from Sussex. Not only did the nuns take personal risks to shelter Jewish people and airmen but they also shared their meagre rations with them. Joanna Bogle was a very animated speaker who provided a lot of very interesting side stories as well as details of these historic events. The photos below show a good turnout even though we had to follow the latest Covid rules. The World War II photo competition was also popular.

Our speaker for the February meeting is Jo Mabbutt who will talk about The City Livery Companies. The book club is currently reading *Dangerous Women* by Hope Adams.



Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 8 March – Monthly meeting. Speaker: Claire Fecher – a demonstration of weaving and flower making using ribbons. Competition: embroidery.
Monday 21 March – Annual Council Meeting @ Dorking Halls. More details to follow.

The record of the Churt WI Monthly Meeting held on 11 January 2022

Welcome: Marion opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed 28 members as well as our guest speaker, Joanna Bogle. Because of the current Covid-19 restrictions, this meeting was the first where all members wore face coverings, and it was decided to leave all windows open and arrange the room with socially distanced tables of six.

Tea and Flower ladies: Thanks were extended to Sheila Stringer, Julia Deacon and Jean Stiff for providing the refreshments, and again to Sheila for the beautiful Spring-like flower display for the President's table.

Record of last meeting held on 14 December: Taken as read and duly approved.

Apologies received: Sue Mainwaring, Mary Davis, Nancy Frost, Anne Garland, Sally Fraser, Sue Cowan, Jean Stiff, Claire Lassiter, Joan Lemon and Maxine Knight.

Birthdays for January: Annette Barnsdale, Margaret Jackson, Ann Iremonger, Victoria Prevett and Sue Mainwaring.

Monthly Competition: WWII photo – or any other item relating to WWII.

Finance: Therese reported healthy funds, namely, £1642.60 in the current account and £1107.59 savings.

President's address:

Marion commented on the success of our Christmas lunch at Hindhead Golf Club which 37 members attended.

Deborah was thanked for producing our "new look" programme for 2022.

Annette was thanked for organising the speakers for this year which cover a varied and interesting range of topics.

There will be regular updates throughout the year concerning outings and trips, however, one trip will be to the Chichester Flower Festival on Thursday 9 June. A minibus will be organised, and Annette will produce a sign-up sheet for February's meeting.

Marion spoke briefly about the success of the WI book club which since its inception in July 2019 has proved popular. To date 28 books have been read and discussed. We were able to conduct meetings via zoom during the various lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 and only missed two meetings in May and June 2020.

Cards, milk bottle tops and stamps are still welcome. Rosemary and Annette are passing these on so please bring in each month.

Finally, Marion introduced our guest speaker, Joanna Bogle whose subject was: Courage and Conviction, the women who rescued Jews in Italy in WWII. Members very much enjoyed Joanna's entertaining and informative talk. Annette gave the vote of thanks.

Competition winner: Rosemary.

Meeting closed at 4.00pm