



BOOKHAM BEES WI

Newsletter 86– August 2025



Bookham Bees meet the 1st Wednesday of the month,
in The Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham 7.15pm for 7.30pm

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING THIS MONTH?

July Meeting

Jenny introduced the speaker, Biba Brooke-Webb from the Mary Frances Trust (MFT). Biba explained that MFT was set up over 30 years ago by two ladies, one of whom had a son who had mental health issues. At this time very little support was available for mental health issues. They set up the charity to provide peer support to share advice and coping strategies. A wide range of services are now available for anyone who is aged 16 plus. These are free of charge and people can self-refer for most of the services. Biba explained the symptoms of poor mental health. MFT offers a range of services to support the person and their families, including well-being courses, art classes and even a football team. Financial advice is also available for clients. Some funding is available from NHS but there is a funding gap and fundraising is necessary. Biba then answered a range of members' questions.

A lovely social time was had by all.



Bridge Group 2

Bridge group 2 has been running successfully for a few months now

We meet on the 3rd Thursday afternoon of each month when we enjoy several games of bridge, a good chat and a cup of tea and cake or biscuits.

We are 5 members at present but if we are short of players on the day then members of Bridge group 1 have stepped in very willingly.

We would welcome new members and hope to get our membership up to 8 so we can run 2 bridge games in an afternoon.

Please contact Liz Roberts larrylizr@btinternet.com if you would like to join us.

Liz Roberts

Book club 2

Wait For Me, by Santa Montefiore

Based on a true story, this beautifully written romance is an easy read. A young war brides husband is declared missing, presumed dead during the Battle of Arnhem. She cannot believe that he has gone as he has promised he will return to her. A lifetime later, in the late 90's this widow is in Australia and receives a letter from a stranger who says he remembers a life that belonged to another before him.

We scored it a strong 9/10

Anne Taite

Coffee morning

Fifteen Bees met for coffee and chat at The Vineries this month. From the wide range of topics discussed, it is clearly an ideal place to solve the world's problems - oh, and enjoy ourselves. This group is a really good way of getting to know other Bees better in an informal setting.

Janice Evan





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Lunch Group

7 of us met for a nice chatty lunch today, 18th July. We are not meeting in August but will be back Monday 8th September at the Vineries

Julie Alderman

Gin Group 1

An Alternative Gin Meeting

July found our gin group (with guests) attending Leatherhead Theatre to see *The Gin Chronicles*. A vintage radio-styled comedy written by a former local Bookham boy who also took the lead role as John Jobling. The plot, set in 1947 involved a chase on the Flying Scotsman to crack the case of Britain's entire supply of juniper berries going missing. It was light, a bit of fun and watching one of the players doing the sound effects, very entertaining. Sponsored by Deerness Gin, a couple of our group of course had to sample it and found it very good indeed.



Jan Gapper

Gin Group 2

Greeting! This is a live report from Spirited Bees!

We met to celebrate Debbie's birthday. We warmed up with a glass of chilled white wine in the garden. Rapidly moving on to a kir royal. Currently sipping Canadian gin, Gin Sauvage. It is delicious with strangely overtones of chocolate....watch this space!

Moira Dyson

London Walk

On Thursday 24 July just 4 of the London Bees went up to Canary Wharf. We have 23 in the group but due to holidays/grandparent duties/illness we ended up with a very select group of 4!

We caught the train to Canary Wharf and then had a refreshments before walking round Eden Dock. We then went to Crossrail Roof Garden (gardens seem to feature when I organise a trip!). It was amazing to see all this green space for people to enjoy within all the skyscraper buildings of Canary Wharf. We had lunch in the historic Ledger Building, a beautiful building used to keep ledgers, now a Weatherspoons!!

After a delicious lunch we spent a good hour exploring London Docklands Museum but all agreed we could have spent even more time there as it was so interesting.

We decided to find the River Thames and maybe catch an Uber boat so walked to the pier in the pouring rain but found that the boat would not stop at Waterloo, just Embankment or Westminster and we would have to wait 25 minutes so we headed back to the station this time walking through the shops (just to keep dry you understand!)

We all agreed that Canary Wharf is a fascinating place to visit built on a peninsular in a what was a "rough" part of East London and now a very upmarket place to live and work, which is constantly changing with buildings going up left right and centre.

Our next walk will be in September so do let me know if you would like to join us. More information nearer the time.....



Denise Bottomly



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Sewing Group

This month we started our new project, sewing bonding hearts for families whose babies are in the local neonatal units, a project near to my heart as I worked there for many years. The parents and babies have a fabric heart each and have them near to their body so their scent passes to the fabric. They then swap around the hearts so the baby gets to know their parents better. It has proved to be very successful during necessary separation. Watch this space to see how we go.



Fiona Goldsmith



For gardeners who maybe have all their runner beans coming, like me, and cooks who have not been included this month, this is a lovely seasonal recipe from the WI website.

Green Bean Risotto

Ingredients

2tbsp Olive Oil
150g Fennel, chopped
225g Risotto Rice
1.2 -1.3 litres Vegetable Stock
200ml Dry White Wine
Seasoning
115g French Beans, halved
50g Mangetout, halved
55g Vegetarian Parmesan Style Hard Cheese grated, plus extra to serve

Herb Butter Ingredients:

70g Butter
1 tbsp Fennel Fronds, chopped
2 tbsp Chives, fresh, chopped
2 Garlic Cloves, chopped finely
1/4 tsp Black Peppercorns, roughly crushed

Method

First, make the herb butter: Beat all the ingredients together, spoon onto a piece of greaseproof paper, shape into a roll and chill in the fridge.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan, add the fennel and fry for 5 mins until softened and only just beginning to colour.

Add the rice and stir.

Bring the stock to the boil in a pan.

Stir the wine and seasoning into the rice then add a ladleful of hot stock.

Simmer for about 20mins, stirring from time to time and topping up with stock as needed until the rice is tender and nearly all the stock has been absorbed.

When the rice is almost cooked, about 5 mins from the end, add the beans and then the mangetout.

Cook for 2 mins and then stir in the hard cheese and one-third of the herb butter, until melted.

Spoon into shallow bowls and top with slices of herb butter and extra hard cheese.

Garnish with extra fennel fronds if liked.

This recipe is from *Cooking from the Garden*, by Sara Lewis.



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BEES NEWS and Future Events

Monthly Meeting

In August we have our monthly meeting in the field to the side and back of the Barn Hall, weather permitting. Last year we had a fantastic evening and far too much fun.

Please remember to bring a chair to sit on and some drink, something to drink out of and some snacks. Nothing else needed, all will be prepared.

It can be chilly later in the evening so please bring something to wrap up in.

The weather promises to be good but if there is any problem Jenny will send an email put to everyone. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Top Hat

28th August Jan Gapper has kindly arranged an outing to Chichester to see Top Hat. Everyone is really looking forward to this!

Picnic

Our picnic will be held this August on Monday 11th August on the green opposite The Cricketers at Downside 12-2pm. If weather inclement Jenny will let us know if it is cancelled. Bring a chair and food and drink. A lovely social occasion sitting in the shade of the weeping willow.

SAVE THE DATE

Quiz 2026

Our quiz for 2026 is confirmed for September 18th in the Barn Hall. I know it is a distance away but we all have such busy lives and you do not want to miss it. Time is flying!

Any ideas for outings or activities are always welcome. If you have any ideas or interests, please do bring them to a committee member

Don't forget as well the many courses, ideas, activities, and items to read online from the WI. Do have a look if you are indoors on a rainy day.

Please also read the emails that Debbie sends out as Secretary. There are some interesting items and free outings as some eagle eyed members have already noted and booked!

www.thewi.org.uk or
[Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes \(surreyfedwi.org.uk\)](http://Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes (surreyfedwi.org.uk))





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BOOKHAM BEES' GROUPS

Air fryer Group

A virtual group sharing tips and successes and failures with occasional small group meet ups.
For details contact Debra Nunan on Dn1969@hotmail.com

Book Club 1

Full at present. For waiting list contact
Gaye Burt: gayegoddard@hotmail.co.uk

Book Club 2 –

Full at present. Meet on differing evenings. Contact
Anne Tait: annetait1@btinternet.com

Book Club 3 & 4

3 . Meet 4th Tuesday of each month, in the afternoon 1-2.45pm. Currently 2 spaces, please contact Jan Dunlop:
4 Meet 4th Tuesday at 10.15am jetdunlop@gmail.com

Bridge

We now have 2 bridge groups

If you play bridge and are interested in joining, please contact: 1- Jane Carradine: jschome03@gmail.com

2 - Liz Roberts: larrylizr@btinternet.com

Cheese and Wine Group

To express interest please contact julie_ryder@outlook.com.

Cinema/Movie Group

Bee Movies meet on the last Monday of the month We make arrangements through our WhatsApp group once film has been chosen. If you would like to be added, please send your mobile phone number to kmtgaunt@me.com

Coffee Mornings at The Vineries

Usually, 10.30 on different days of the week. Please contact Pam Ingledew If you would like to attend. pamandgeoff6@icloud.com

Family History Group

3rd Tuesday 2pm. Full but or details contact Judith Witter: judithwitter@hotmail.com

Gardening

Contact Diane Poole to join the active group & pick up lots of tips via WhatsApp. Visits and gatherings from Spring until the bad weather. diane.poole25@googlegmail.com

Gin Club 1

For enquiries please contact

Jan Gapper: jangapper@gmail.com

Gin Group 2

For enquiries please contact Moira Dyson at moiradyson@gmail.com

Knit & Crochet – Full at present. For waiting list or to set up another group contact

Karen Tranter: Karen.tranter1@btinternet.com

Lunch Group

Please contact Julie Alderman to express interest.

Full but lunch group 2 can be started.

Aldermanj0@gmail.com

London Walking Bees

A new group with members organising walks in London.

Please contact Denise Bottomley

denisevbottomley@msn.com or 07866 936878

Pub Nights

2nd Wednesday of the month at The Olde Windsor Castle Pub 7pm

For more details, please email Vikki: the7thwife@gmail.com



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Sewing Group

1st Thursday of the month at The Community Room, King George V Hall, Effingham 1.30-4.30. If you would like to join us, to sew, knit or just watch and learn, please contact Fiona Goldsmith:

Fiona_goldsmith@hotmail.com

Sunday Roast Lunch Group

2nd Sunday of the month at various venues

Please contact Sandra Dawson for further details

myrtle.dawson@btinternet.com

Supper Group

Meets monthly on varying days of the week at different venues, organised by a different member each month. To join and for further details please contact Sandra Dawson: myrtle.dawson@btinternet.com

Theatre Group

If you would like to join or have ideas of productions you would like to see please, contact Sue Bacon:

suebacon06@gmail.com

Ukulele Please contact June Barber if you would like to join:

Dormant at the moment jbrb6@aol.com

Walking Groups

Walkie Talkie 1 – Every Wednesday 8.00am prompt

Meet at Tunnel Car Park, Bookham Common.

Janice Evans: jevanshome123@gmail.com

Walkie Talkie 2 – Every Monday at 09.30am

Tunnel Car Park, Bookham Common.

June Barber: Jbrb6@aol.com

Walk Third Wednesday each month at 10.00am

approx. 6 miles Contact June Barber: jbrb6@aol.com

Walk First Thursday each month at 10.00am

approx. 4 miles. Group full but accepting a waiting list.

Julie Ryder: julie_ryder@outlook.com

Welfare Officer

Janice Evans is our welfare officer. Please contact Janice if you know of any member who is unwell, been in hospital or going through a difficult time.

Janice's email is: Jevanshome123@gmail.com

Web Site

<https://bookhambeeswi.org>

