



Only two more sleeps until our Christmas meeting, on Thursday 5th December! We are looking forward to an enjoyable evening, with the Christmas platter, refreshments, music and games.

- Please remember to bring the following; CUTLERY, MUG & GLASS as well as your favourite drink.

Tea and coffee will be available and of course there will be cakes!

- Upon signing in you will be given a raffle ticket for the monthly raffle.
- There will be an additional raffle for the hamper. Tickets will cost £1 and will be available on your table. If you wish to participate:-
 - take a ticket from the folder
 - write your name on the ticket
 - put the ticket and your £1 into the other folder

The folders will be collected, and tickets entered in the raffle. There will be one lucky winner and as the saying goes, 'It could be you', but you must be in it to win it. Good luck.

- You will also need to bring a pen or felt tip pen for the games.

If you have purchased a ticket for the evening this includes your 50p refreshments.

We will still be collecting items for the food bank and night shelter.



CRAFT GROUP SALES

The craft group have been busy making decorations for Christmas
Look at the display and sales table

Remember to bring your money and look for gifts. Also look at the festive table decorations for sale.



If you are a secret Santa, please give your gift* to Mother Santa when you arrive. You should collect a ticket, ready for collecting your present at the end of the meeting.

*Approx. £5

We are looking forward to a lovely evening. Christmas jumpers on show or

ANNUAL DINNER THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2020 £28

If paying this Thursday -

- Please place the exact money or cheque in an envelope.
- Write your name and the amount you are paying on the front of the envelope
- Place the envelope in the marked envelope.
- All payments must be completed by Thursday 2nd January 2020

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020 £43 Full membership £21:10p Dual

Please place any cheques/ money in an envelope.

Please write your name and the amount you are paying on the front of the envelope.

- Put your envelope in the marked box.

All subscriptions should be paid by the January meeting. *THANK YOU*

ANNUAL DINNER MENU CHOICE

Have you returned your menu choice email? If you have difficulties or need further help, please contact Anne at banistera17@gmail.com or speak to her at the December meeting.

CHRISTMAS AT KEW MONDAY 16th DECEMBER

Richmond's Coaches will pick up from Adderley Road Bus Stop, opposite Skew at 15:30hrs

Set down will be approx. 22:00hrs



The Trail is approximately 1 mile in length on pathways. There are limited places to sit during the trail. Light refreshments are available to purchase at Kew Gardens

WALK in November

A window of better weather gave 14 of our members a few hours in which to enjoy a walk without being rained on. Yesterday we followed footpaths in a completely new area near Braughing with many lovely views. Although in some places our boots acquired a thick layer of clay as we crossed water-laden fields, it didn't spoil our outing one bit and we were able to replenish any calorie loss afterwards with lunch at the Axe & Compasses. Thanks go to Sarah for finding and pre-walking the route and for leading us expertly. (Taken from BSWI Facebook page)



Walks in December and January

If you wish to participate on future walks, look at the information and sign up on the clipboards

Thursday 12th December walk around Ware. Leader Jeanette Barker

January walk starting in Sawbridgeworth Leader Sue Williamson

Monthly Programme 2020

The Programme Planning Team have been working hard and have achieved an interesting and varied programme for next year. At present we have presented the programme on an A4 sheet for display.

The handbag version will be available at the February Dinner. Why are you waiting for this version? You may remember that there was a competition to design a BSWI logo? Well, we had an entry from Mavis Roberts. Thank you to Mavis for producing an idea for the logo. Her entry has been shown to a graphic designer, who is developing the theme for a variety of print and embroidery uses. Obviously, we wish to use the final design on all our publications and products and in order to do this we cannot print the handbag version of the programme until later in January.

A copy of the programme for 2020 is attached.

Dates for your diary

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Leader</i>
Thursday 5 th December	BSWI Christmas meeting If you wish a platter, ensure that you have bought your ticket in advance	Charis Centre	Anne Banister
Thursday 12 th December	Walk around Ware	See notice board for details	Jeanette Barker
Monday 16 th December	Kew Christmas Lights	3:30p.m Pick up at Adderley Road Bus stop, opposite Skew Return approx. 10:00p.m	Anne Banister
Thursday 2 nd January 2020	BSWI Monthly Meeting Subscriptions final payment Annual dinner final payment due	Charis Centre	Anne Banister
Thursday 16 th January	BSWI Committee	Anne Banister's	Anne Banister
Wednesday 22 nd January	Book club 2	Margaret Barker's	Margaret Barker

Thursday 6 th February 2020	BSWI Annual Dinner	Bishop's Stortford Golf Club	Details to follow
--	--------------------	------------------------------	-------------------

Look for more activities in the January BSWI newsletter

Welfare

The BSWI is about friendship and looking 'out for' for each other.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you are aware that one of our ladies needs to know that others care about her. BSWI have a team of ladies who volunteer each month to be the on- call contact to arrange the care and assistance.

WHAT IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?

Either ring the monthly contact for or ask someone to ring on your behalf. Please do not be shy, feel awkward or embarrassed. The ladies of the Welfare team are friendly, caring and discrete.

**CONTACT FOR DECEMBER IS:- JEAN MEEKINGS
01279 656235**

Remember Coffee on a Monday morning at Cote
Photo of the ladies who met last week.



"On such a dull, drizzly November morning it was pleasantly surprising to meet up with so many fellow members at Cote this morning for a cosy coffee. You never know who will turn up, but you can always be assured of some good conversation as we all find out what we've been up to and what we have planned. Everyone is welcome, so if you're at a loose end on Monday morning around 10.30 a.m. pop in and find us near the exit to the patio, where our animated exchanges are less like to disturb the other customers!

Thank you to Maggie for the photo and article.

Can you offer to help?

We need volunteers for the following

- To welcome visitors and new members
- To introduce speakers at the beginning of their presentation
- To thank speakers after their presentation
- Help with collecting and or taking donations to food bank
 - To be part of future sub-committees

If you are able to offer any help please sign the clipboard or see Anne Banister

TEA ROTA

The new rota for January and March will be available at the meeting on Thursday. Thank you to everyone who returned their forms, this will enable us to allocate friends with one another, at times convenient to them. If you did not return a form and find that you have been allocated a month when you are unable to attend, please see if someone can swap with you.

Food Bank

All donations are welcome

Remember that toiletries and personal hygiene items and children's sweets are also well received



BSWI Ladies visit Ely Cathedral Christmas Food and Craft Fair

Maggie Eccleston kindly wrote about the day and took these lovely photos.

Our thanks to Maggie. Some of you may have read this piece on Facebook, but just in case you missed it :-

“The 14 November 2019 dawned cold and wet, so it seemed an inauspicious start to our, much anticipated, jaunt to Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair. But undaunted we gathered early in the windswept car park at Bishop’s Stortford Bowling Club and were glad to board Richmonds’ warm and comfortable coach for the journey to Ely. We soon discovered how popular this event has become locally when we were informed that we were on one of three coaches that Richmonds were sending to Ely that day. As efficient as ever, during the journey we were issued with our entrance ticket and a paper wrist band for identification on arrival. Once on board the usual WI conversations began in earnest, the appalling weather was forgotten and in seemingly no time at all we were safely deposited a few yards from the west door of the magnificent medieval cathedral, the “Ship of the Fens”.

A spritely walk and we were dry inside the cathedral where we found stalls packed with Christmas fare on either side of the nave, in the north and south aisles and transepts, under the Octagon Tower and in the Lady Chapel. There we could find Christmas ornaments, clothing stalls and those selling arts and crafts. All were reasonably priced and very tempting to behold. Attached to the north door of the cathedral was an enclosed way into the large marquee containing the Food Fair, that led through to an even larger marquee that housed the café.

Now where would (?) women from BSWI head at 11.00am? – well the café of course! You can’t begin to tackle so many stalls without a sustaining cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate. Several succumbed to a sausage roll, a mince pie or a slice from one of the enticing cakes on the counter. Others decided to save themselves for the golden hog

roast that was turning on a spit, exuding a pleasant aroma. Fortified we went our separate ways, usually stating quite categorically that we were “only looking and might buy nothing at all.....”.

I'm not sure how the others tackled so much abundance but with diligence I tried artisan chocolates, cured meats, cheeses, chutneys, jams, honeys, oils, flavoured brandies and Christmas pud, carefully noting my favourites for future reference. I don't care for gin, but if I did, I would have been in heaven with so many varieties on offer. I then quartered the stalls in the cathedral and this time I did not hesitate. Soon I was in possession of a new jumper, two pairs of my favourite bamboo socks, a pair of “Wristees” and raffle tickets for the hampers. I'd watched a demonstration of Christmas floral art, learnt how to artistically wrap my presents and listened to the choir. By the time I'd met up with some others for a roast pork sandwich with all the trimmings (and crackling) for lunch there was just time to return to the Food tent to pick up the items I'd earmarked earlier and a Cornish pasty from the Cheese and Pie Man for my tea, (it was delicious, by the way), before returning to the lane outside the west door for 3.30 pm.

We all admired how well the cathedral stewards had organised the pick-up points outside the cathedral. By then the sun had come out and some had taken advantage and incorporated a walk into the town before returning to the coach. Our coach arrived on time and we climbed on board for the journey home pleased by all that we had found at Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair 2019. I would definitely recommend this seasonal event for its rich variety, reasonable costs and comfortable shopping experience.

RECORD OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD WI **ON THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

President Anne Banister opened the meeting by welcoming members and reminding them of health and safety points, indicating fire exits and explaining that Waitrose car park was the place to assemble in the event of evacuation.

The record of the last meeting had been included in the newsletter and a copy was on the table for members to read.

Correspondence from HFWI included a list of events for 2020 and proposed resolutions.

Four members attended the Autumn Council meeting. Anne thanked Maggie Eccleston for the comprehensive report she has written about the event. Unfortunately the sound system did not work at all well which made it difficult to hear. Maggie took a video of the pageant. Baroness de Souza gave a thought provoking talk.

Members were reminded that there were still quite a few data forms that had not been completed and returned. If these are not received by December those members will not be able to attend monthly meetings, outings or groups. We now have 102 members. There were 3 visitors at this evenings meeting. Annual subscriptions are due by 2nd January, 2020.

Tickets for the December meeting at which platters of food are being served must be purchased before the event at £4.00 per ticket, to ensure numbers for catering. Tickets will include a free raffle ticket. There will also be a further raffle costing £1 per ticket and the prize will be a hamper.

Anne reminded members to visit the events tables to sign up for walks and outings and a lunch at Cibo and to put their names down for the table at the February dinner on which they wished to sit. Forms will be online shortly for members to select their menu of one starter, one main and one dessert.

Volunteers were needed to introduce speakers and also to give the thanks. Members were also reminded to complete forms on their seats to help with the monthly tea and cakes. Volunteers were also needed to join Jenny Hooper and Sandra Fleming to decide on monthly competitions.

The joint trip to Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair with the Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club would be leaving from the Bowls Club in Bowling Lane, Beldams Lane at 09.30. There is plenty of parking space. The coach would leave Ely at 15.30. The coach to see the show White Christmas would leave at 11.00 from Adderley Road bus stop. The coach to see the Christmas lights at Kew Gardens would leave the bus interchange at 15.30 and would be back at approximately 22.00.

Anne introduced tonight's speaker who she has known for many years, Jim Bond former foster carer and national charity worker. Jim is now on the panel of national foster carers. Jim gave a very interesting and informative talk about the years he fostered. He was the first single man in Essex to become a foster carer in 1994 and over the years had fostered a large number of young men and one young woman. One of the young men still lives with Jim and has done for 25 years. Jim explained that some youngsters stayed only one night and others for longer. The young people being fostered nowadays have very often become homeless because of problems with mental health, drug and alcohol abuse or neglect. There are 65,000 young people in foster care in the UK. The minimum age for somebody to become a foster carer is 18. There is no age limit on when they have to give up. Jim was a former teacher and explained how stringent investigation was undertaken before anybody was allowed to become a foster carer. They have to be financially secure, have a spare room and their character is looked into by speaking to family, friends and colleagues. Maggie Eccleston gave the vote of thanks.

After tea and cake Anne reminded members that it had been suggested that we start a book swap as the Charis Centre can no longer store our books. The idea is that members bring a book they have read and put it on the table for sale, if the book does not sell that evening the member takes it home again. Herts and Essex Boundary Flower club have invited members to attend their meeting on the 3rd December in Manuden Community Centre to watch a demonstration by Pamela Lewis. The cost is £12.50 which will include light refreshments. For further information contact Beverly Moore.

The Manor of Groves are holding a Christmas Fair in aid of the Red Cross on 20th December, coffee and biscuits included in the ticket price of £5.00. Buntingford WI have invited us to attend their carol service on 12th December. Members were reminded that Anne will be laying a wreath on behalf of our WI at the Remembrance service in Castle Gardens on 10th December at 10.30. There are still a few tickets available for the quiz on 9th November. Maggie Eccleston won the evenings competition. Birthday cards were handed out. Doreen Brown called the raffle. Anne thanked the tea ladies.

The meeting on the 2nd January cannot be moved to the following week because the Charis Centre has another booking on that date.

Anne closed the meeting at 21.35