

Julia Sutton welcomed Pam Tedder, a Trustee of West Sussex Federation of WI and Chair of Public Affairs. She spoke about the charity '**My Sister's House**' which supports those women in danger of domestic abuse in the Chichester and Worthing area. This charity has asked WIs to support it by making and displaying colourful bunting at one of 11 railway stations. Bosham WI has made bunting for Bosham Station. A QR code is visible for those wishing to make donations.



Louise Peskett then took the floor to speak about "Pioneering Sussex Women". She has been collecting stories of local women for over 11 years and began with **Margaret Gore MBE** born in 1913 from Worthing. After managing to get flying lessons, she joined the Air Transport Auxilliary(ATA) which was a very responsible job and delivered 309,000 aircraft during the war. She was the first woman to pilot a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress.

Next came **Joyce Cooper** born in Ceylon in 1909. She lived in Bognor and was the most decorated woman swimmer. She represented the UK in the Olympic Games in 1928 in the backstroke and freestyle, the European Championships in 1927 and 1931, the British Empire Games in 1930. She won Gold and Silver medals and competed all over the world.

Elsie and Doris Waters from Steyning were considered to be the most successful female double-act in the history of British music hall and variety. They will be remembered for creating the comedy characters Gert and Daisy and first appeared on BBC Radio in 1927. They came from a very musical family who performed together as E.W. Waters' Bijou Orchestra. One of the children was Jack Waters later known as Jack Warner (Dixon of Dock Green fame).



Marguerite Patten (born in 1915) from Brighton – a famous and much-loved food writer, TV presenter and cookery demonstrator who contributed more to eating and cooking than any other person. She wrote over 170 books and sold more than 17 million copies. During the Second World War, she made radio broadcasts for the Ministry of Food suggesting inventive and cost-effective ways to make the most of Rations. She was the one who coined the phrase "here's one I made earlier".

Georgette Heyer born in 1902 was from Slinfold and wrote 56 novels and invented the historical romance genre. She was an impeccable and excellent researcher of history.

Octavia Wilberforce born in 1888 was one of the first female doctors and made a medical career despite opposition from her parents. She was engaged and, despite the subsequent death of her fiancé, it was his family who supported her in her desire to study to be a doctor. She was in general practice in Brighton and ran a women's shelter near Henfield.

Bosham WI will not be meeting in August but will reconvene on **Wednesday, 4th September** at 2.30pm in Bosham Village Hall. The speaker then will be Sarah Slater on 'Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court' between 1660-1830. Visit the website at boshamwi.co.uk

Jennifer Fidler