

WEST SUSSEX WINE VIEW NOVEMBER 2024

Shoreham beach huts by Hazel Bockh

Journalism: My Part in its Survival A talk by Stuart Flitton, Speaker

The highs and lows of 45 years as a reporter and sub-editor

Journalism is often called "the first draft of history" and I have been lucky enough to have had a front seat to some of the most important events in the past 45 years and an inside track to the people involved. I want to share with you how a newspaper is put together and how this has changed over the years.

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Federation Office:

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Open: Tues-Wed 9.30am-3.30pm (closed 1.00pm-2.00pm for lunch)

Deadlines and magazine contributions

Please send items for inclusion to the Federation Secretary.

Email to: secretary@wsfwi.co.uk

Dec 2024 Issue Deadline 1st November

Jan 2025 Issue Deadline 1st December

Feb 2025 Issue Deadline 1st January



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

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Erika Brichta 07823 330783 • erikabrichta@wsfwi.co.uk

What a huge pleasure it was to be back at the South of England Showground for the Autumn Show in September. I used to live close by, visiting the shows at Ardingly was a regular event. Once again, our members excelled with their crafting skills and so did our Organising Team, led by Federation Vice Chair, Ros Williams together with two other Trustees, Fiona O'Leary and Deb Ruse, staged magnificently by Pauline Comber (pictured) and of course brilliantly assisted, by many Sharpthorne WI members. Huge thanks to all of you. Congratulations also to everyone who took part, even if you didn't win, it was the total of the entries that enabled us to have such a magnificent display. We hope to get the schedule out to you earlier for next year's event so that you have plenty of time to be creative.

Then there was the official opening of Denman House! (See a report on page 8) As usual we were up to the wire getting everything ready. In the end a dry day was all we were hoping for. The planter shown in the photograph has been purchased using the remainder of the legacy that we received from Pat Adams, formerly Westhampnett WI.



Our Federation staff team of Charlotte and Karen have been amazing, working late and really going the extra mile. What a fantastic achievement that a team of volunteers (the Trustees) has enabled this momentous move to a modern, inclusive, welcoming space which we plan to use a great deal. The first workshops and training sessions have already taken place. We look forward to seeing you there in the coming months.

As if the opening of Denman House was not enough to deal with, we also had the Federation Annual Meeting. Our last meeting at the Capitol theatre for a while as they will be closed for an extended period for refurbishment. To have an event sellout more than 6 weeks before the event was quite amazing, and certainly a first since before the pandemic. I hope all those who attended had a great day meeting with friends and enjoying our speakers. Huge congratulations to Hazel Bockh, Horsham Normandy WI for being the overall winner of the 2024-2025 photographic competition and which coincidentally is featured on the front cover of this edition of the WSN.

Thank you for providing baskets for us to sell, they are so loved by members and so appreciated by the federation.

This month will be the first that West Sussex Federation has decided to be proactive and show our support for women who suffer domestic violence. For full details see the Public Affairs column but do come along and show your support at the vigil we are holding in the Carfax Band Stand in Horsham on Monday 25th November 6-7pm.

Bookings for Carols at Boxgrove Priory are also going well, I am really looking forward to the first event of the festive season.

Keep taking your photographs of unusual, or loved buildings in the County for the WSN Photographic Competition which closes in February 2025.

Stay safe, look after each other and be kind.

Enika Federation Chair

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Federation Secretary: Charlotte Barker Denman House, 60 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AD Tel: 01403 470812 • Email: secretary@wsfwi.co.uk Tues-Wed 9.30am-3.30pm (closed 1pm-2pm for lunch)

Keeping WI Records Up to Date: A Vital Role for MCS Reps

The WI MCS database is a crucial tool for managing WI records, serving as a data library of essential member information. To ensure its effectiveness and accuracy, MCS Reps play a critical role in maintaining the database. It is essential that the MCS Rep keep this database up to date to ensure accurate communication and services. New members should be promptly added to the database, while those who have not re-joined should be removed. Additionally, Officer changes must be reflected to maintain accurate contact information as this is used to create the WSFWI Yearbook, a valuable resource for the WI community. The NFWI relies on the data in the MCS database to send out vital resources like WI Life magazine and the annual voucher booklets.



NFWI Diaries: Your Essential WI Planning Tool

Keep track of your WI activities, events, and personal commitments with the official WI diaries, available for purchase from the NFWI shop https://shop.thewi.org.uk.

These stylish and practical diaries offer ample space for notes, appointments, and reminders. While you're shopping, be sure to explore the wide range of other WI merchandise, including tote bags, mugs, and clothing. Find the perfect items to showcase your WI pride!

Please note that the federation will not be ordering diaries on behalf of WIs this year.

Kingscote Suite: Your Ideal Venue for WI Events

Brighten your WI gatherings with a stunning venue! The Kingscote Suite is available for hire, providing a beautiful space for coffee mornings, craft sessions, committee meetings, and much more. Whether you're planning a social event or a productive gathering, the suite offers a comfortable and inspiring atmosphere.

To inquire about booking the Kingscote Suite and discuss your needs (£12.50 per hour for members, £15 per hour for non members), please contact the secretary on email at secretary@wsfwi.co.uk.

With best wishes,

Charlotte & Karen

Federation Secretary: Charlotte Barker - secretary@wsfwi.co.uk

Federation Bookkeeper: Karen James - acounts@wsfwi.co.uk

hank you!

Dear Members,

When you read this I will have left the Board of Trustees after seven interesting years as Chair of Sport and Leisure and more recently as Vice Chair of WSFWIs.

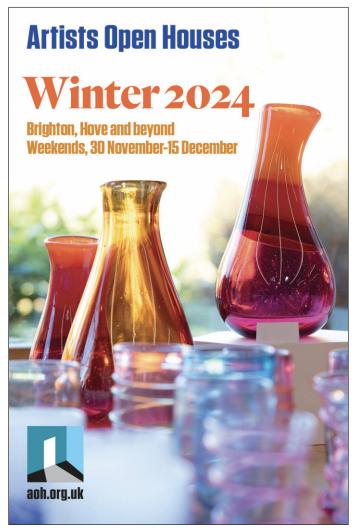
I have learnt so much, met so many of you and had the opportunity to appreciate the talent, commitment and kindness of our members but really I would like to make you aware of the dedication of your Trustees, particularly as they led us through the Covid era and change of headquarters.

Erika, Yvonne and Karen Yates have spent endless hours on phones ,emptying the cellar and cupboards of North Lodge and pouring over architect's drawings amongst many other chores and now we have an exciting new facility in Horsham fit for the twenty first century WI. Other Trustees are sharing their time and skills to make WSFWI the best it can be.

If you would like to learn more about the work of a Trustee come along as an observer to a Board meeting and experience the fun, sense of achievement and sometimes frustration, of creating a successful federation.

Share your talents and develop your skills!

Lesley Boardman East Preston Village WI



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MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING TEAM

Yvonne Price 01903 772169 yvonneprice@wsfwi.co.ul





Denman House!

I want to add my comments on the brilliant Open Day on Friday 4th October, where we welcomed many WI friends, special guests and members of the local community to Denman House. So much work went into the concept and the execution of the project, and we were proud to showcase the WI in West Sussex to our NFWI Chair, Jeryl Stone and to our CEO, Melissa Green among others.

We will be using the space for workshops and events in the future, including the rescheduled **Programme Planning**



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workshop. This will now be held, face to face at Denman House on Monday 4th November 2-4pm. Up to date details were sent to all WI secretaries in October. Please book using tickets@wsfwi.co.uk

Science group meeting

There will be a Science group meeting in November -Friday 29th 2-4pm, Denman House.

Please book using **tickets@wsfwi.co.uk** stating Science group, name, WI and who you are booking for. Payment of £5.00 can be made on the door.

Speaker details to follow.

Please remember the open invitation to join one of our M&T team meetings, we would love to meet members who would like to be involved, in any way.

Next Meeting - November 18th 10am, let me know if you would like to attend.

We are rapidly approaching the end of the year, and WIs will be closing their books according to the month of their Annual Meeting. If you are unsure of what you need to do, or have any concerns please get in touch with the team.

The Adviser team are here to help and support all members and WIs so please keep in touch, let us know how you are doing and what you would like from us.

Yvonne Price M&T Team Leader: yvonneprice@wsfwi.co.uk Yvonne Bee: yvonnebee@wsfwi.co.uk Sue Carter is on sabbatical Marita Watteau: maritawatteau@wsfwi.co.uk Sue Midgley: suemidgley@wsfwi.co.uk Jacky Barugh: jackybarugh@wsfwi.co.uk Chris Hodges: chrishodges@wsfwi.co.uk Fiona O'Leary: fionaoleary@wsfwi.co.uk



Horsham Normandy WI

Horsham Normandy WI created a special topper to celebrate the opening of Denman House, the new Headquarters of West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes. It features six iconic British women.

Coastline

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EVENTS

Ros Williams 01342 810944 roswilliams@wsfwi.co.uk

The South of England Autumn Showcase

The South of England Autumn Showcase at Ardingly was again a huge success and together with my show team, I would like to thank all the members of both East & West Sussex Federations, who took the time and made the effort to enter the competition. Everyone worked so hard making their exhibits of such great quality and fun! The standard was again very high.

This past year the four members of the show team have spent time in planning meetings & discussion about what was the best way we could showcase some of your talents. It was a learning curve with regard to classes and next year following on from some of your comments , we fully intend to include photography, the written word and perhaps painting. The judges comments were all very favourable, so thank you again for all your efforts.

My thanks must also go to my fantastic team for all their hard work throughout the year and with all the unseen work that is involved.

Fiona O'Leary, Secretary, Deb Ruse, Treasurer and Pauline Comber, who enabled the fantastic staging of the event so we could showcase your cookery and crafts so well. Please continue to support us for next year's event.

Ros Williams Show Team Leader

















Forthcoming Events

Thursday 26th October, 10am, Denman House **Rag Rug Flowers with Pam and Fiona**

Learn how to rag rug but making flowers not rugs on this working party craft event No charge. Bring a packed lunch Tea and coffee avail.

> Contact pamtedder@wsfwi.co.uk Or fionaoleary@wsfwi.co.uk

Carols at Boxgrove Priory Thursday 5th December, 2.15 - 3.45pm

Tickets £8. Boxgrove Priory, St Mary & St Blaise Church, White Knights, Boxgrove, Chichester PO18 OEE.

> Carols will be accompanied by the Shrubbery WI choir and soloist Leila Tasher.

> > For booking details see Page 14

Thanks to you all for your continued support.

300 CLUB

The latest 300 Club winners:

- £200 Janet Melvin - Durrington - 40
- £100 Y Price - East Preston Village - 99
- C Lewis Westbourne 241 £50
- £50 Fiona O Leary - Hapstead Jam Tarts - 270
- £50 Sue Perkins - Franklands Village - 231
- £50 Elizabeth Tourell - Kingscote - 25
- Heather Coleman Selsey 347 £50
- Valerie Hawkins Holbrook Horsham 314 £25 £25 Judy Wilson - Sidlesham - 37
- £25 Eileen Herod - Worthing - 206
- £25 L Turner - Durrington - 41

A NEW BEGINNING FOR WEST SUSSEX WI

What have an 18th-century wheelwrights, an upholstery business and the new offices of West Sussex Federation WI got in common? The answer quite simply is that they all have occupied or are occupying the same space in Horsham, West Sussex.

Erika Brichta the current West Sussex Federation Chair recently opened the new WI offices in Queen Street, Horsham. The opening was attended by about 60 WI members including Jeryl Stone the WI National Chair and Melissa Green the WI National Chief Executive. Representatives of Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council were also present. However the important most guests were the granddaughter and great granddaughter of Lady Denman, Mrs Greenwood and



ABOVE: Erika Brichta and Jeryl Stone cut the cake CIRCLE: Guests listen to the opening speech

 $\label{eq:all-star} All \ photographs \ courtesy \ of \ Alex \ Rickard \ Photography$





Mrs Martin respectively. Lady Denman was the founding member of the WI movement in England in 1915. It was with their permission that the new offices are named Denman House.

The oldest WI in England, founded in 1915, is Singleton and East Dean and of their two members were also present. In her speech at the opening Erika Brichta explained why they had moved from North Lodge in Chichester where the WI West Sussex offices had been based for 76 years. The problem was that North Lodge "was a Grade 2 listed building which no longer served the needs of our membership. It is fair to say that we prevaricated for very many years before we took the plunge to sell and find something which was more suitable and here we are. It has been a tremendous

team effort, the Federation board officers and trustees who are all volunteers, have worked tirelessly to get to where we are today.

Huge thanks to all of them."

As expected from the WI the opening included the cutting of a celebratory cake and a glass of champagne. There

was also much discussion as to how West Sussex WI can continue to work with partners to take forward initiatives and campaigns.

There are over 3500 members of the WI in West Sussex with 21 WIs in the Horsham constituency alone. This is not the end of an era but rather the beginning of a new chapter for West Sussex WI.

Sue Moody

WSFWI CHRISTMAS CRAFT DAY

at Denman House, 60 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AD • Tuesday 19th November 10am for coffee, 10.30-3.30pm (1 hour for lunch) • Price £20 per member



Beaded Bauble



Paper Decorations *Bonus craft*

Come along and make a Scandi Horse decoration and a Beaded Bauble, all materials supplied, please bring a basic sewing kit with scissors, needles and a thimble if you use one. Bonus craft Paper Decorations.

Please apply to the WSFWI ticketing email: tickets@wsfwi.co.uk, closing date November 10th, places are limited, please book early. Your WI will be invoiced for payment, please let your treasurer know you have booked.

There is no parking available at Denman house for this event, please use the park and ride or public transport. It is a short walk from Horsham bus station.

Bring a packed lunch, hot drinks available.

YOUR NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

Please keep sending us your photos and news for publication - Email to: secretary@wsfwi.co.uk



Westbourne WI

Westbourne WI transformed the village hall into an elegant tearoom last month with crisp white tablecloths, china cups, flowers and an irresistible choice of cakes. As a result, they raised the fantastic amount of



£840 for Breast Cancer Now. The event was the idea of member Evelyn Pearce who, with her team of WI helpers, worked hard to ensure success – organising children's activities and arranging donation of an exceptional array of raffle prizes as well as serving the afternoon teas. In all a happy afternoon with a great result.

Chidham WI

September 2024 was a very special month for Chidham WI as we celebrated Delphina Archer, being a member for 50 years. During that time Delph has been very active in the WI, serving as our President for many



years and seeing us through numerous celebrations and events.

Our President, Michele, reminded us of Delph's varied and longstanding career aided by material from the archives and a display of photographs from the past 30 years.

We were told of Delph's work at County level by former WSF Chairman June Moran that Delph served for many years on the House Committee at North Lodge, County HQ, organising many social events.

We then heard from Delph herself who related some interesting stories about her experiences over the years. Her first introduction to the WI was in 1972 when she joined in Emsworth but a house move to Chidham meant a transfer to Chidham WI. Delph was only 30 years old at the time, considerably younger than most of the other members and she had some amusing tales of coping with small children during WI events. She was involved with setting up a creche for the children of WI members. Delph became President of Chidham WI in 1982 (whilst pregnant) but had to resign after a couple of years due to pressures of childcare. However, she came back to be President

> later on, in 1997 and stayed until 2010, a total of 13 years!

Delph was presented with a bouquet followed by an excellent WI tea, with sandwiches, scones and, of course, a 50th Anniversary celebration cake.

Broadbridge Bombshells WI

13 Broadbridge Bombshells members marking WI Day at Sumners Ponds Café by the Lake.



River Action Week

16th - 22nd September 2024



Our Knit & Natter group decided that yarn bombing was a great way to raise awareness of the WI's Week of River Action between 16th-22nd September.

Our members took part in some craftivism and put their crocheting and knitting skills to use by creating this post box hat. They topped it with lots of plant life, animals, and insects that thrive on our local rivers, like ducks, butterflies, dragonflies, and kingfishers.

We attached a small sign to the topper, and hope that this will encourage the public who walk past to join the fight for healthy freshwater.

Giulia Secretary, Rumboldswhyke WI



acclaimed opera company Wild Arts (★★★★ Opera Now, ★★★★ The Guardian) return with their fresh, innovative staging of Handel's legendary oratorio that brings music and story to life.



THE GREAT UK WATERBLITZ!





It was a throw away remark, 'I don't suppose anyone will want to do this?' I said, after reading Pam's article in the September issue about The WI Week of River Action.

'I'd help, it is for the environment after all'. Several members were enthused. I emailed Tobias at NFWI, there was such a good response Earthwatch was short of testing kits. Hassocks WI was put on a waiting list. Then I received an email, the kits were in the post.

In Hassocks we have a Herring Stream it and its tributaries drain northwards from the Downs and join the River Adur near Twineham. We decided to carry out water testing at the confluence of two streams. It is easily accessible , popular with dogs and children. The results of the tests for Nitrates and

Phosphates were good. We emailed the results.

I received a thank you from the website and an invitation to repeat the testing next April.

Over 4,400 tested local water quality collected over 2,300 data points. You can view all the results online at - www.freshwaterwatch.org/pages/great-uk-waterblitz#RESULTS



Dora Carrington: Beyond Bloomsbury



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ACWW

Jan Marsden (Temporary Rep) 01243 864670 janmarsden@wsfwi.co.uk



Associated Country Women of the World

Seeds of Peace

In addition to ACWW's overemphasis arching to empower women and create change to benefit worldwide, women it continues funding of projects. As reported before, the latest project, Seeds of Peace, was set up earlier this year to help Ukrainian refugee children recover from the stress and trauma of war through the therapeutic practice of The children gardening. attend classes on horticulture which includes plants, growing soil restoration and climate change.





The project is run by ACWW member society, Geopolitical Alliance of Women, a Ukrainian based

women's organisation passionate about promoting inclusion of women in society. The project is implemented at a school in Bucharest, Romania, hosting 200 Ukrainian children.

Jau Marsdeu

Photos provided September 2024 by ACWW with permission of parents of children.

acww.org.uk

BRAMBER BEECHES



WSFWI is grateful to Greening Steyning who have helped maintain access to our federation planted woodland Bramber Beeches at Coombes Farm, this year. In addition, Greening Steyning's Biodiversity Action Group, led by Ronnie Reed, with guidance from Tony Whitbread, President of Sussex Wildlife Trust, undertook a Habitat Survey there.

The survey was carried out over a period of three months, from

April 2024 to July 2024, over 4 visits to Bramber Beeches.

The survey included:

- A Walk Over to identify areas to be sampled, and shrub and ground flora.
- 5 sample areas spread across Bramber Beeches where species were recorded in detail at ground, shrub and canopy layers.

• A bat and bird survey using an open air acoustic device.

The report illustrated that Sycamore was the most dominant tree species. Beech trees were in 3 of the 5 areas, with beech saplings in the shrub layer. Other tree species included Italian Alders, Black Popular and Pines.

Hawthorn and Elder were the most dominant shrubs. Dogwood was found on the northern slope of the wood and Field Maple was present where there was more open space and light.

The ground layer was a mixture of Wood Avens, Parsley, Hogweed, Nettles and Brambles, with the Brambles in all areas except the middle shaded area.

Moss and Lichens were recorded in all sample areas.

Further comments, and findings about the birds and bats will be covered in future WSN, as well as a comparison with the original tree species planted. Meantime, if anyone would like to know more about the survey please contact Jan Marsden on **janmarsden@wsfwi.co.uk** or **01243 864670**.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pam Tedder 07521 275646 pamtedder@wsfwi.co.uk

This November marks the start of the UN designated 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, beginning on the 25th. This issue is so serious that the government and police now view it as being on the same level as terrorism due to the immense harm it causes.



In West Sussex alone, 48,500 women and girls were attacked last year, with 21 tragic deaths since 2019. To raise awareness and promote the "No More Violence" campaign, we're holding a Candlelit Vigil in the Carfax, Horsham, on Monday, 25th November, from 6-7pm. Safe in Sussex, who support domestic violence victims, will be there, along with Katy Bourne, the PCC, and possibly John Milne, the new Horsham MP. We'll be remembering the victims of violence. We would love you to attend along with friends and family. Horsham railway station is just a 10 minute walk away, or the Park and Ride bus stop is adjacent to the Bandstand.

On Saturday, 30th November, we'll be back in the Carfax, encouraging men to sign the White Ribbon, Not in My Name pledge, a commitment to never condone or participate in violence against women.

The official colour for the 16 Days is orange - symbolising hope for a brighter future. Look out for the orange displays put together by WIs throughout the community. Let's come together to create change!

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WSFWI EVENTS CALENDAR & DIARY DATES 2024!

Let us know what events you would like to see on offer. Email - wsfwi-events@wsfwi.co.uk Web - www.west-sussex.thewi.org.uk

Monday 4th November Programme Planning Workshop <mark>(Rescheduled)</mark>

Come and share your programmes and get new ideas. We want you to have the best programmes you can and use them for publicity and promotion.

The Programme Planning workshop is on Monday 4th November, 2-4pm at Denman House, 60 Queen Street Horsham RH13 5AD.

Please book using **tickets@wsfwi.co.uk** State you are booking for Programme Planning, your name and WI, how many tickets you are booking. There is no charge for the session.

An Online session will be scheduled at a later date.

Friday 29th November Science Group

2-4pm

The return of the Science Group – This group is not just for members with a specific interest in science – it hopes to show science in everyday life and in many forms with entertaining and informative talks.

The next meeting will be Friday 29th November, 2-4pm.

Speaker to be confirmed.

Tickets will be £5 to include tea/coffee and biscuits - Please register for a place using the email address tickets@wsfwi.co.uk.

Tickets will not be issued but we will have your names, and money will be taken at the door, card or cash, preferably by card. Friends & family are welcome to attend.

Thursday 5th December Carols at Boxgrove Priory

2.15pm - 3.45pm • Tickets £8.00 • Boxgrove Priory, St Mary & St Blaise Church, White Knights, Boxgrove, Chichester PO18 0EE

Coffee / tea and mince pies will be available at the village hall beforehand from 12.30pm with a selection of table sales. Parking is available at the village hall for the carol service, a short walk across the road to the Priory.

Parking at the Priory will be reserved for those members with blue badges, and they will need to book a space with the federation secretary.

Please book using **tickets@wsfwi.co.uk**. State you are booking for Carols, your name and WI, and how many tickets you are booking. WIs will be invoiced for tickets after the event.

Events are now being planned for 2025, including the Federation Chair's Officer Receptions 2025:

Balcombe Victory Hall13th May, 7-9pmBoxgrove Village Hall15th May, 4-6pm

Invitations will be sent to WIs

YOUR NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

Please keep sending us your photos and news for publication - Email to: secretary@wsfwi.co.uk

Westergate WI

Westergate WI enjoyed a visit to Littlehampton Lifeboat Station, followed by lunch.



Pound Hill WI

Pound Hill WI had a very enjoyable craft evening in August. Tables were set out with different crafts and members were able to circulate and learn how to make various crafty items.

Members were also served some very tasty tea and cakes organised by the committee.



Rusti Belles at the Autumn Show

Rusti Belles members felt very proud to attend the Autumn Show in Ardingly, to showcase their talent with the following entries.

Sandra Rogers submitted her fabulous wreath which gained first place in the wreath section.

Jude Philby, Sue Miller, Karen Silverson, Rachel Stringer were delighted to gain a top mark on the staging for their Christmas Hamper, which included delicious home made produce, mince pies, shortbread, brandy butter, chocolate truffles and a hand made card.

Sue Miller entered a miniature size jumper which looked fabulous amongst all the other entries in the Hand Knitted Christmas Novelty Jumper section.







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Crawley 12 Queensway, **RH10 1EJ** 01293 577 977 Mon-Sat 9-5PM **Burgess Hill** 21 Albert Drive, **RH15 9TN** 01444 253 300

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