

Surrey Hill East Report

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman gave the annual report. He firstly thanked the outgoing Chairman Richard Dandy for his tireless work for the branch over the past two years. He also thanked the outgoing committee for everything they had done to make events at the branch such a fantastic success over the past year.

He then went on to look at the many highlights of the year:

These include the event on 28th of January at the Cambridge Hotel in Horley. The speaker was Dee Blick, who talking about Marketing on a Shoestring. The branch had 65 members at that event which was the best ever.

18th of March the branch held an event at the Burford Bridge Hotel. Speakers were John Bull from the TUC and Graham Friday from Reigate and Banstead Council. It was an excellent evening, and the FSB members even discovered that they had things in common with the TUC!

Just after this was the FSB annual Conference over the weekend of the 19th -21st March, this was held at the Celtic Manor, Newport. Richard Dandy and John Thompson attended the Conference on behalf of the Surrey Hills East members.

July saw Surrey Hills East's Summer Ball (Saturday 11th July) in aid of the Orpheus Centre. This was held at the Burford Bridge Hotel.

Finally the branch hosted its own Question Time on the 16th of September. On the panel were Peter Ainsworth MP, Janet Sully Labour Councillor, Darren Mepham Chief Executive Mole Valley District Council.

In addition to hosting branch events, your committee have been active on your behalf at other meetings. They attend the Non Domestic ratepayers meeting, and this year have also attended Kick Start, Horsham Micro Biz, the Croydon We Mean Business and the Redhill Business Expo.

Plans for next year include attending the Kick Start event at the Mandolay Hotel in Guildford on the 14th of January and Laura Moffatt has offered to come and speak to the branch. The committee will welcome ideas from members with regard to events they would like.