

## Ashbocking, Swilland and Witnesham Women's Institute

### Committee's Activity Report November 2017

2017 has been another full-on WI year with an array of activities for everyone to take their pick.

Members and friends came along to the Christmas workshop. This proved to be a very productive day with everyone taking home a wreath for the door and a table arrangement. Mulled wine and mince pies cheered us on our way towards Christmas.

Liz Farrow invited members to Christmas afternoon tea at her home in Witnesham. Twenty people enjoyed the welcome glass of bubbles followed by an array of delicious sandwiches, cakes and good company - WI style.

Monthly get-togethers of the "for fun" craft group continued with felting, crochet for beginners, creating an Easter bunny from a square of knitting, pottery thumb-pots and tea light lanterns. Lately, members are producing bags, cushions and other items, recycling material sample books.

On the big money front, a bursary of £300 was awarded, with the winner able to choose a Denman College course or a local organisation option. Another of our members was the lucky winner of £500 given by Suffolk East Federation to be used specifically at Denman.

For those of us who enjoy exploring the Suffolk countryside there have been guided walks in Grundisburgh, Coddham and Woodbridge.

Helmingham Hall was the destination for our July meeting where we strolled around the garden, admired the well-tended borders, taking note of unusual plants, all before sitting down to tea, sandwiches and cakes in the cafe.

Several members meet at Fynn Valley each Monday to practice their dexterity in the game of croquet and do remind us there is always room for more.

Haughley House was the venue for our Invitation to View outing. We were greeted with a ticking-off by the owner who felt that our group was a little too large for touring the house. However, he was able to cope with us in two groups, and by the time we ventured out into the garden we had warmed to him and hopefully, him to us! Tea was delicious, so we left on a high note. All good fun!

We've entered into the community spirit picking up litter around our villages (10 bags full) encouraging participants with soup and pudding for lunch afterwards. Once again WI put on tea and cakes for the two villages show in July, boosting our profile while making a little money.

Being a WI member really is exciting so onward we go into our 70th year!

Winter pick followed by soup & pub lunch  
Sat 28 April 10.30 recreation ground