

WI Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2017

It's always helpful to look back and remind ourselves what we have packed into the last twelve months. The range of topics and activities is quite astonishing and all for under £40 and at the village hall.

A talk by Richard Humphreys from Vanners' silk weavers in Sudbury had members enthralled with his display of luxurious fabrics and their history. We had a milliner who brought a shop full of hats and fascinators for us to try. We've heard of one man's circumnavigation of the world by container ship. We've tasted fish recipes and chocolate – fortunately, not in the same evening although both were delicious. One notable evening was that when Judith Shallow addressed us about her term as High Sheriff of Suffolk - a wonderful opportunity to hear at first-hand what this role involved and to admire her robes of office.

As well as our monthly meetings we have a walking group and craft group. We have had meals out and been on a variety of trips. We've debated and voted on resolutions about hidden disabilities alleviating loneliness and on the threat posed by microfibres in our oceans.

Members are always keen to support others and we've been busy this year. We decorated a tree for the church, collected used stamps for the training of Hearing Dogs and donated over forty Christmas presents to West Suffolk Hospital.

The highlight of 2016/2017 has to be our seventy-fifth anniversary in September. Members dressed in 1940s garb, we celebrated with time appropriate refreshments (freshly made!) and welcomed past Presidents, Suffolk West's Chairman, and our Group Adviser. We had consulted old records which illustrated a strong sense of community, shared interests and horizons being expanded, always combined with a sense of fun. These important values continue to reflect our WI today and helps explain its longevity. We're still concerned about the world around us, in learning new skills, supporting the community and enjoying the company of friends. So do come and join us – we continue to meet in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month.

Alison Shaw

President