

Report from Felsham and Gedding Women's' Institute for Felsham Annual Parish Meeting

17 May 2016

2015 – 2016 has been a good year for WI, both nationally and importantly, locally. Nationally, the WI celebrated its centenary and we played our part in those celebrations. Two members were fortunate enough to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall and we had cake and fizz for all our members to mark this momentous event. We've also celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday, marked with cake (naturally) and we were thrilled that two members who share the Queen's birth year cut it.

We've had a wide range of external speakers. Some highlights include 'An Evening with Joyce Grenfell' which made us laugh, we've admired Christmas floral decorations and tried to replicate them, and savoured a cookery demonstration. Recently we debated and voted on two resolutions. The first on the access to hospital for the carers of patients with dementia and the second on reducing food waste. We've had meals and trips out, our walking group meets monthly and members have benefitted from the recent addition of a craft group.

Our thanks go to the Village Hall for providing a welcoming meeting room. It's often commented on favourably visiting speakers who base their comments on experience of many other halls. Our only concern is lack of parking space as we overlap with Zumba but we do appreciate that it is important for the Village Hall to be used.

We've been thrilled to welcome some new members this year as we are well aware that increasing membership is crucial to our survival as a group.

In September 2016 Felsham and Gedding WI will be 75. The first meeting was held in September 1941 and we're still going strong, which is a testament to the friendship and opportunities provided by WI.

Alison Shaw

President