

## **ASHENDON W.I. REPORT 2018**

Ashendon W.I. currently has 21 members. In November Sue Rand stepped down as President and Ruth Pimm was elected as our President for 2018.

At our monthly meetings we continue to have excellent speakers who talk on many varied and interesting topics from writing and publishing a book, how to beat the smugglers, flower arranging in a tea cup and the joys of singing.

We have also had some wonderful trips this year. We have visited Bletchley Park, followed the trail of the suffragettes in London, attended a session at Aylesbury Court, observed the invaluable work of the RDA and explored the origins of the Victorian Sewer System in London. We already have several excellent visits planned for this year.

We continue to hold our regular film nights and the next showing is 'Dunkirk' on May 15<sup>th</sup> in the village hall.

The W.I. is an integral part of Ashendon Life as it gives members a chance to meet regularly and be part of the local community. However, we are also members of a wider nationwide organisation that can make a difference. Last year our major areas for discussion and lobbying were 'Alleviating Loneliness' and 'Plastic Soup'. Both of these topics are in the forefront of national debate.

A new project this year was to start a 'singing group' which is open to everyone in the village. Having assured us that anyone can sing we set Fiona Jacobs the challenge to prove this is so. After three sessions she is still hanging in there and those of us who have taken part have really enjoyed the experience.

We are always keen to welcome new members or guests to our meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm in the village hall.

Vanessa Bates

Secretary