

ASHENDON WI REPORT 2019

Ashendon WI currently has 18 members. Molly Boughton and Doreen Clark, both long standing and most cherished members, have recently left due to relocation to Bicester.

Our monthly meetings have once again opened up our eyes to previously unknown people and places. We have had talks on planning and planting a garden border, been enthralled by visiting birds of prey, heard the tales of someone raised in a Jewish family in the East End of London during the Second World War, learnt about the earth's tectonic plates and the importance of women in horse racing.

Sue Rand, our programme secretary, has organised some excellent and fascinating visits during the last year. We have had guided tours around The Globe Theatre and Tower Bridge, visited Pitstone Windmill and Heritage Museum, walked the production line of BMW Mini Plant in Oxford and visited DSI workshops in Croydon where costumes for Strictly Come Dancing and other theatre productions are made.

2018 marked the centenary of women in the UK gaining the vote and we celebrated this momentous occasion by holding a cream tea on the Playing Fields in August. Another centenary in 2018 was the end of the First World War. Ashendon WI commemorated this event by creating a poppy display on the Village War Memorial. The WI specifically wanted this to be a community project and had great support from the village.

2019 is a landmark for Ashendon WI as we celebrate 80 years since the formation of the organisation in Ashendon. Naturally we had to mark this in some way so last month we held a '1939' themed supper and get-together.

Finally, Ashendon Voices, a singing group that was started under the 'WI umbrella' has now evolved into a completely separate enterprise and is flourishing with members from both the village and local area.

We are always keen to welcome new members and guests to our meetings, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm in the village hall. There is always a notice in the hall window advertising the next meeting or visit Ashendon WI website for further information.

Vanessa Bates
Secretary Ashendon WI