

ASHENDON WI REPORT FOR PARISH MEETING 2022

Ashendon WI currently has 19 members. This is the same as pre-Covid and feel this is a reflection on our efforts to keep going through the pandemic one way or another. At the beginning while we were all in lockdown we communicated online via the Ashendon WI Newsletter and then when it became apparent that we were going to be unable to hold meetings in the Village Hall for the foreseeable future we all had to learn how to use Zoom so we could hold meetings online. Bear in mind that some of us had only just got our heads round using a computer and smart phone! Most of our members persevered with the new technology and in addition to our monthly meetings we held social meetings via Zoom to keep in contact and support one another. The one big advantage of holding meetings via Zoom was that we could invite speakers from literally all over the world and, in fact, the speaker for our first meeting was Zooming us from her home in France. In the following months we learnt about an elephant sanctuary in Thailand, went trekking in Papua New Guinea, learnt about the Romans in Buckinghamshire and followed train journeys around the UK. One of the most informative meetings was about cyber security! We resumed meeting again in person in July 2021 and, apart from a couple of hiccups, our monthly meetings are now back in the Village Hall.

Last September we had a wonderful evening at Creslow Manor and have organised two recent visits to EFW, Greatmoor for both members and non-members.

We are extremely proud that Ashendon WI responded to a Buckinghamshire Federation initiative for making PPE equipment for doctors and nurses and together with residents of Ashendon made over 150 sets for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

We were delighted to help with the Wildlife Initiative on Boughton's Peace and several members planted shrubs provided by the Parish Council.

In November, the WI once again created a Poppy Display at the War Memorial. This was to commemorate 100 years of the British Legion. At Christmas we put up a display of knitted trees and Christmas puddings in the Church.

Earlier this year we held a couple of 'Soup Lunches' on the Playing Fields to give Ashendon residents an opportunity to safely meet up and have a chat.

Finally, Ashendon WI is in the process of preparing a Resolution on aspects of the NHS to be put forward to the National Federation. It has been initiated and driven by Sue Rand who is ably supported by a sub-committee. A lot of research has been done and meetings held with relevant parties and Sue has been greatly encouraged by the positive response she has received so far.

As always, we welcome new members or visitors to come along to our meetings, held in the Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Vanessa Bates
Secretary
Ashendon WI