

## The Offords WI

### Annual Committee Report 2017

2017 was another busy year beginning with our New Year dinner held at the Black Bull in Brampton. It was a bit of a squash for us but the food was good and we had a jolly time.

Marlene did us proud once again with her arrangements for speakers throughout the year. In February Mark Williams gave us his personal story about his visits to Botswana. It was very interesting but sad to hear of species on the verge of extinction.

Unfortunately, our March speaker was unable to attend but Mavis Campion gave us a very interesting talk on "the right wheelchair in the right way". In April we entertained ourselves with a Bring and Share supper along with an Auction and Bring and Buy. Alan Peasgood, our May speaker, enlightened us on the history of the Flying Doctor service which was set up by John Flynn in Australia. The June meeting included a craft session led by Denise Heath when we were allowed to regress to childhood with card and colouring pens - great therapy.

We held our Open Meeting in July and had lots of visitors. Neil Callan enthused us with his description and slides showing how he and his wife had transformed a derelict garden in the Fens into the beauty that was now open to the public under the National Garden Scheme.

Once again we held our August Tea Afternoon at The Limes courtesy of Debbie and Shirley, along with a Bring and Buy - a lovely afternoon. Pat King had everyone exercising their minds and bodies at the September meeting and at our October meeting, Richard Carter, from the Norris Museum, gave a very interesting talk about The History of Law and Order in Huntingdonshire. Richard is a retired policeman and is proof that policemen are getting younger all the time.

How we all enjoyed making macramé snowflakes with member, Maggie O'Hare, and her friend, Diane, at the November meeting. It was good fun and great to have something to take home for the Christmas tree. Speaking of which, our WI once again participated in the Christmas Tree festival at All Saints Church. Many thanks to everyone who provided decorations for the 'frozen lands' theme and particularly to Jenny for putting it all together.

Throughout the year there were several outings and activities organised by Marion. In May we were joined by several husbands on a visit to Flag Fen to see the Bronze Age settlement. This was further enhanced by good weather and lunch at the Dog and Doublet.

July saw us sailing down the river from St Ives to Hemingford Grey for a visit to the Manor House, the oldest continually inhabited private house in Britain. Beautiful gardens and a personal tour of the house by Diana Boston, daughter in law of the amazing quilt maker and author, Lucy Boston.

In September the Senior Citizens were subjected to a murder mystery play called The Unpopular Guest with eight WI members 'braving the boards'. After weeks of rehearsals, it was noted that the cast enjoyed the performance as much as, or possibly more than, the audience. Ten Pin Bowling and an excellent lunch at Pidley in November rounded off a varied programme of outings for 2017.

Some members also participated in some of the activities offered by Headquarters. Four members enjoyed the challenge of a Walking Treasure Hunt in Huntingdon - and won first prize. Others enjoyed learning how to do Tunisian Knitting and making Christmas trees out of folded paper.

I should like to express our thanks to our President and all members of the Committee for all the new skills we have learned, for the interesting topics we have listened to and for all the fun we have had in 2017.