**WI Centenary Celebrations - Bracknell Wick Hill WI Flower Bed**

**Thank You Speech by Pam Oldroyd – President of Bracknell Wick Hill WI**

Good morning and a warm welcome from the members of Bracknell Wick Hill WI (o*n this sunny day)* to the Mayor of Bracknell Forest and the Deputy Mayor of Bracknell Town distinguished guests and representatives from the Berkshire Federation and other Bracknell Women Institutes.

My name is Pam Oldroyd and on behalf of Bracknell Wick Hill WI I would like to thank Bracknell Councillors, officials from Bracknell Regeneration Partnership, Bracknell in Bloom and Continental Gardens for making this magnificent WI Centenary Flower Bed possible. Special thanks are also due to Oaktree Nursery who supplied the plants to make the Flower Bed a truly fitting tribute to commemorate 100 years of the WI 1915-2015.

I think you would be interested to know that the idea for the flower bed evolved when Bracknell Wick Hill WI and their guests were visiting The Tower of London with the awesome poppy display.

Two Wick Hill WI ladies Bea Jones and Sally Barrett with Cllr Isabel Mattick were relaxing after viewing the poppy display and the conversation turned to how Wick Hill WI might suitably celebrate the WI Centenary. Bea Jones commented that she had visited Canada when they celebrated the Centenary and many towns had commemorative flower beds.

As you know Isabel loves a challenge and she mentioned that Bracknell in Bloom where looking for a project for 2015.

We were delighted that the idea gathered momentum and we had several meetings with Bracknell Regeneration Partnership, Bracknell in Bloom and Continental Gardens. We presented two designs and Barbara Harlock’s design was chosen. I’m sure you will agree that it is a most appropriate design for Bracknell in Bloom and Wick Hill WI

Extremely helpful discussions with Bracknell Regeneration Partnership continued and the result is the fine banner on display with the flower bed which will be in place for two months.

It is now my pleasure and privilege to officially open the flower bed.

We are sure that Bracknell in Bloom will once again be a credit to the town when the judging takes place on July 9th.

We hope that you will all join us at the Grange Hotel for tea/coffee and of course WI cake which has been especially made for the occasion by Janet Guiver a most enthusiastic and dedicated member of Bracknell Wick Hill WI. At the Grange you will have the opportunity to look at information on the formation of the Women Institute and Wick Hill WI.

MANY THANKS FOR COMING TO SUPPORT US THIS MORNING.