



Wolston WI News – September 2018

History of the WI

Earlier this year Jane guaranteed we would have good weather for our Centenary Garden Party in August and I am pleased to say she was right. If you want to organise an outdoor event perhaps you should speak to Jane. The day was ideal as it was warm enough to show off our posh dresses and hats but not too hot. Members of Binley Woods and Church Lawford W.I.'s joined us and we were privileged to welcome Lynne Stubbins, who is National W.I. Chair and Anne Bufton-McCoy, who is Warwickshire Federation Chair. We held competitions to guess the name of the teddy, how many pieces of pasta were in a jar and the weight of the lovely anniversary cake. All the proceeds for the competitions and the sale of the left-over cakes were donated to the Air Ambulance Charity.

We also held a family barbecue evening and although not so lucky with the weather, those who attended had an enjoyable time so thank you to Dorothy and John Harrison for hosting the event.

Our September meeting caused a headache for our programme secretary as the speaker had to cancel at short notice. Ruth McCartney came to the rescue and gave us a talk about the history of the W.I. She concentrated on the roles of four women who were instrumental in getting the W.I. established. The first W.I. was set up in Stoney Creek, Ontario, by Adelaide Hoodless and she was responsible for establishing a number of W.I.'s in Canada. It was Lady Gertrude Denman, Madge Watts and Grace Haddow who were instrumental in establishing W.I.'s in this country. Probably Lady Denman was the name members were most familiar with as the W.I. College is named after her. It was not easy for women to attend meetings as at that time a woman was not allowed to go out alone after dark or to attend a meeting unless accompanied by her husband and certainly not allowed to voice an opinion that was different to her husband. How times have changed.

Don't forget to enter your photographs for the Photograph Competition at the Baptist Chapel on 11 October, between 4 p.m. and 7,00 pm. and come to view all the entries at the Village Hall, Wolston, on Saturday, 13 October.

Jean Morgan