

Women in Berden Annual Meeting 5th April 2016. Committee Report April 2015 - March 2015

We began the year with 16 members and ended the year with 14 as we had to say 'Goodbye' to two members who have moved away from Berden. Our Secretary, Yvonne Smith, was one of these. Yvonne was a founder member of Women in Berden and served on the committee as both Secretary and President. Heather Davis has taken on the role of Secretary and we welcomed Wendy Riddell to the Committee.

We have again enjoyed a varied programme of speakers at our own meetings and have also attended events organised by our local WI Groups.

Our speakers have told us about Edith Piaf, Customs and Traditions of the City of London, Shakespeare's Globe, River Thames Police and Spiritual Healing to name a few.

We held a successful car ramble in July and had an enjoyable evening in Anne Wilkinson's lovely garden in August with an alfresco supper supplied by the members.

Our Open Evening in October turned out to be the highlight of the year when Jane McConnell, a Berden resident and Tribunal Judge, gave a very interesting and enlightening talk about the Judiciary and how it works. We welcomed husbands, partners and friends to the meeting and attracted a large audience.

We started a second hand book stall whereby members can swap books for a small fee of 50p to help boost our funds.

In December we again welcomed Jenny Beech who guided us through some Christmas crafts accompanied by Ulla's Swedish Glogg and mince pies. Our January meeting followed the custom of previous years and we enjoyed a New Year meal together with delicious food contributed by members.

Members attended the Stansted Mountfitchet Group Meeting in September which was hosted by Elsenham WI. Sarah Miles, the actress, entertained us with a talk about 'Celebrity'. We received a number of invitations from WIs in the Group to join them in WI Centenary Celebrations and we attended a tea party organised by Stansted Mountfitchet WI. We also attended a quiz at Swards End and the December carol service in Saffron Walden. Two members also attended the WI Centenary Meeting in the Albert Hall at which the Queen was present. Our President attended to WI Garden Party hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall at Buckingham Palace.

The Committee would like to thank everyone for their continuing support and we look forward to seeing you all at our monthly meetings during the coming year.

