**Stapleford WI Annual Report for 2020**

Stapleford WI was formed in March 1920 and we had been planning great things for our centenary year…!!!

The first meeting of the year was held in February and was a good turn out with all the members present wearing hats. Committee member, Rose Humberstone, had designed a beautiful broach that we had made in enamel containing the words ‘Stapleford WI 1920-2020’. All Members have been given a broach and also we posted broaches to past members who have moved away from Stapleford. There was a report on the WI walk on Thursday 23 January 2020 in Saffron Walden.

Our March meeting was our Annual Meeting and 100th birthday and for the first time in thirty-odd years we started the meeting by singing Jerusalem assisted by Lynn Pepperell playing the piano. Sallie Dixon told us about past history of Stapleford WI for the years 1921-1939. She had more information to impart over the coming year. Following the official business, Kay Coe and Liz Hodgkins cut the 100th birthday cake. Members enjoyed refreshments of cake and prosecco. We were not to know this would be our last meeting of the year.

Our next planned walk was in Babraham on Tuesday 17 March 2020 followed by lunch at The George. The Daily Telegraph carried the headline “Life put on hold”, with the Prime Minister calling on people to avoid pubs, clubs and theatres. Nevertheless, seven members did the walk and had a jolly nice lunch in The George. By Friday 20 March pubs, restaurants, theatres, gyms and leisure centres across the country were closed and life as we knew it had ended.

On 19 March 2020 the Committee sent an e-mail to all members informing that in light of the current situation and Government advice, all WI meetings and events are postponed.

Our President, Liz Hodgkins, has written a newsletter each month that has been e-mailed to members on the first Thursday of the month - our meeting night.

We have sent birthday cards to members, drawn a raffle prize each month and sent quizzes via e-mail. The book group has continued to read books and has embraced the technology and met via zoom every six weeks or so. Between lock-downs, on a beautiful August day, we held a socially-distant get-together on Stapleford Rec. It was so good to see lots of members that we did it again in early September. We also managed a socially-distant walk around Hinxton Wetlands, followed by a socially-distant lunch in the Red Lion.

One of our initiatives for 2020 was to fill 100 ‘welcome bags’ for Fulbourn Hospital. A welcome bag is a toiletry bag filled with essentials for women who are admitted to the hospital with nothing. Members kept donating throughout 2020 and Helen Hale was able to fill all 100 welcome bags. This was a great achievement.

The Committee have met each month via Zoom.

The year 2020 has been very different to what we envisaged, and our centenary celebrations are on hold until we can physically meet again.