

WALBERSWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FOUNDED: 9th SEPTEMBER 1918

On 9th September 1918, a group of ladies gathered at Longroof, Leveretts Lane, the home of Miss Owen, and agreed to start a Women's Institute in the Village. A Committee was set up and Mrs Hilda Beebee, of Millcroft, Millfield Road (who was a great friend of Lady Denman, the first National Chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes) was elected President. On 9th October 1918 the Inaugural Meeting of the Institute took place, again at Miss Owen's house. It was agreed to hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at Longroof, with a lecture, tea and music. On the third Thursday of each month a social meeting to be held at Millcroft. Lectures were given on home nursing and soft toy making. 20 women became members at the Inaugural Meeting.



Mrs Harry Block
Founder member

From Mrs. Purves, Longroof, Walberswick. 9th September, 1978.

About 700 miles west of Walberswick, on the South-west Coast of Ireland is the fishing village of Schull and in that village is a bar by a bus-stop run by a young couple from Lancashire. While we were waiting for a bus one day last month these friends introduced us to Mr. and Mrs. Mandelberg, from Manchester, old friends who had just dropped by to see them. Our lives thus overlapped for about ten minutes, but somehow our Walberswick origins were mentioned and they jumped a foot in the air. Said Mr. Mandelberg "But my wife was BORN there!" It was then discovered that Mrs. Mandelberg was born in Millcroft in 1920 and therefore could not be expected to know that her mother, Mrs. Beebee, had presided over the first meeting in East Suffolk of the W.I. in 1918, in our own sitting-room in Longroof, and that we had feted the occasion in June 1978 with the Minute-book recording that meeting in a place of honour. Mrs. Beebee had been a great friend of Lady Denman, the first National Chairman, after whom Denman College is named, which no doubt prompted her to start a W.I. in this village. Her daughter, Mrs. Mandelberg, is the retiring World President of the Girls' Friendly Society, and had been attending the Annual Meeting, held this year in Ireland, so the coincidence of our meeting was truly remarkable.

1919 - In February the Institute had first refusal on taking out a lease on the "Old School Room" at a rental of £6 per annum. Members gave or loaned furniture and a sewing machine was presented to be loaned to members for 6d per day. Members were active in many areas, providing rabbit skins for glove making needed by an Institute in Kent, cured 9d, uncured 2d, and basket making from local rushes.

1920 - Arrangements were made to obtain an Army hut with an estimate of £15 from Teddy Thompson for the removal of the hut and re-erection to its present location on the Green. In July a letter was received from the Military Authorities to say that the Hut was to be removed within seven days or it would be reclaimed by the Government.

THE WI HUT 1920 - 1970



1924 - A Clock for the WI Hut was bought with a gift of £10 in memory of Miss Ella Powell, Founder Member and first Treasurer and Secretary.

1928 - On 20th October, Mrs Frances Gilbert (one of the oldest members) presented a bouquet to Princess Mary at Ipswich. Miss Watson, as Secretary, joined the Guard of Honour. Also in attendance were Mrs, Adams, Mrs Kerridge and Mrs Lane.

There are many at Walberswick who will feel the loss of Elinor Jessie Miller, who died last week in Ipswich, after a long and painful illness. Miss Miller was a nurse by profession, and was trained at King's College Hospital. She came to Walberswick nearly thirty years ago, and during that time gained universal respect and affection by her unselfish devotion to the sick and to all who sought her help. For over fifteen years the Walberswick Home for Crippled Boys, which she founded in co-operation with her friend, Miss Powell, was the means of bringing relief and health to numbers of boys from London and elsewhere. During the war Miss Miller acted as matron to the hospital at Hedenham, Norfolk, and received the Royal Red Cross Medal for her services. During the last ten years she spent all her time and energy for the good of the young people of the village. She was a keen Churchwoman, and, as a member of the Parochial Church Council and in other capacities, furthered the cause of the Church. The funeral took place on Saturday. After a requiem, which was celebrated in St. Bartholomew's Church, Ipswich, her body was laid to rest in Walberswick churchyard. Her grave is next to that of her great friend, Miss Powell, with whom she lived for so many years, and the funeral service was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. A. Thompson, assisted by the Rev. C. Miller, the Rev. C. Powell, and the Rev. J. Robertson. Flowers were sent by many relations and friends, including the Women's Institute.

East Anglian Times.

Mon. Oct. 27. 1930

Died Oct. 22nd Buried Oct. 25th

Miss Powell was the first Secretary/Treasurer of Walberswick WI



WALBERSWICK THEN AND NOW

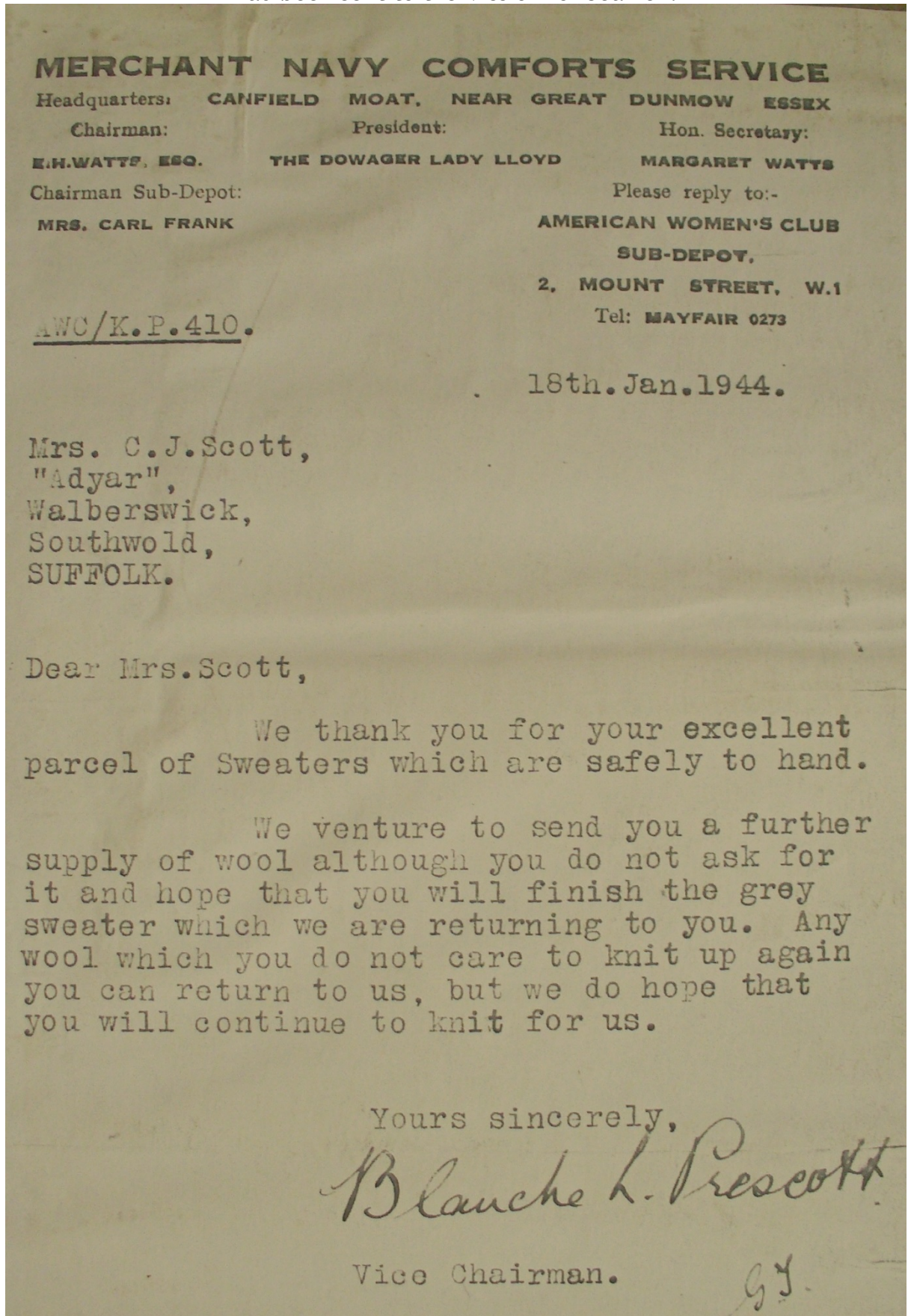
By L. Adams

The Walberswick we used to know
 Before the war begun
 Was as nice a seaside village
 As you'd find beneath the sun:
 Its quiet days and peaceful nights
 With nothing to alarm
 And everybody felt secure
 Without a fear of harm.
 Its common lanes and pleasant walks,
 The green where children play,
 Its well-kept gardens everywhere
 With flowers and shrubs so gay.
 The ferry on the river Blyth
 The bridges o'er the Went
 The beach on which we loved to roam
 Or spend an hour content
 And visitors would come each year
 A holiday to take
 And thoroughly enjoy themselves
 Of that there's no mistake.
 The benefits they each received
 'Tis very hard to tell,
 But some that came both weak and ill
 Went back home strong and well.
 But what a change has taken place
 Since 1939, the difference now
 And pre-war days
 Is fresh in every mind.
 The ferry - ah, the ferry's gone;
 Its engine's lying still,
 The novelty of our village
 Which always gave a thrill.
 The bridges have all disappeared,
 The sluice is turned about
 To keep the water in the marsh
 Which always kept it out.
 The beach is barricaded now,
 The lanes are mud and mire
 The footpaths and the lovely walks
 Are strewn with barbed wire.
 Big guns firing all around,
 Shells burst with all their might
 And aeroplanes overhead are flying day & night.

O Walberswick, O don't despair, good times will come again
 When war is done and peace declared prosperity will reign.
 Then let us work and hope and pray and never never slack
 But keep the home-fires burning till all good things come back.

1940 - During the Second World War knitting became an important pastime and by July, 226 garments

had been sent to the Mission for Seamen.



School Children and Members collected paper salvage, proceeds were used to send a parcel to every serving man and woman from the Village. Members picked fruit and made jams and seed potatoes were given to members to grow a crop for sale on the Village Green in July.

1943 - To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Walberswick WI, a party was held at "Lane Corner". A play, "The Silver Wedding" was written and acted by members. A celebratory cake was made with ingredients which had been sent from Wellsford WI, North Auckland, New Zealand.

A Poem written to celebrate Walberswick WI's Silver Jubilee in 1943.

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Within our little Institute
Upon the village green
The infinite variety
Of WOMAN may be seen.

We all can run a household
And cook and wash and sew,
But each of us excels the rest
In something else, you know.

There's some that bring up children
A hard task during war,
For food is scarce - and children
Eat more and more and more.

The stalwartest among us
Hie to the harvest field.
They hoe turnips and potatoes
And rake and pitchfork wield.

Some are the great cakemakers
And scones for monthly meets
And one warm-hearted woman
Lends her house and grounds for treats

Some do the work of gardeners,
Raise fruit and veg. in crops
While others make the first class jams
That line the grocers' shops.

Some knit comforts for the soldiers
And sell orange-juice for babes.
Some sort out dirty paper
And bale it for salVAGE

Others make toys for children.
The dolls are really grand.
Whilst the pea-green dogs and purple pigs
Come straight from Fairyland.

One runs our recreations
And fortnightly whistdrives
And one at least has mastered bees
And gets honey from her hives.

Should Hitler and his savages
E'er land upon our coast
Then MOTHERS seize the stretchers
And GRANDMAS man the post?



1945 - Over 455 garments were knitted this year and members undertook to do mending and darning for the Forces. Comforts were sent to each Serving Man of the Village, also Land Girls, Coastguard Patrol and Home Guard and to members of the Forces stationed in the Village.

After the War, Miss Jessie Browton came to live in Walberswick . She was an artist and produced the WI posters. On her death aged 89 in 1971 a flowering tree was planted in the grounds of the Village Hall in memory of her services. The first tree on the right at the back of the Hall.

1951 - A Revue “As Others See Us” written by Mea Allen with music by Patricia Morgan was staged in the Gannon Room. The WI took part.



L/R: Mrs Parnell, Mrs Frances Gilbert, Mrs Olive Quenzer

1953 - During the Great East Anglian Flood Walberswick was flooded up to the Anchor Hotel. Many houses were flooded including the WI Hut. WI Members rallied to help in mopping-up operations and the monthly meeting had to be cancelled. Haddenham WI very kindly sent money from their Blessings Jug for flood damage, and Solihull WI sent £5, a new electric fire was purchased in place of the ruined one. This prompted Walberswick WI to start a Blessings Jug which is still in operation and has produced welcome gifts to sick members.



1965 - To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, a Royal Garden Party was held at Buckingham Palace. Miss Olive Rooke, a past President, was chosen to attend.

**Treasures exhibited at Saltlick to celebrate Jubilee Year of the NFWI
(National Federation of Women's Institutes)**



August 1965 Mrs.H.Bunch, President, and Mrs.L.Bateman, hostess, examining some of the Treasures exhibited at Saltlick, Walberswick, in celebration of the Jubilee Year of the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Mrs Frances Gilbert (front left) being congratulated on her 47 years' service. (1965)



MRS. F. GILLBERT (left), of the Walberswick W.I., who has been a member since 1918, being congratulated on her 47 years' service by Miss P. Holmes, the county chairman of the East Suffolk Federation of Women's Institutes, during their tea party at Bealings Village Hall on Monday.
(1965)

Mrs Frances Gilbert was a founder member, her daughter, Peggie Rogers, was President 1986 to 1988 and her granddaughter, Sandra Howe a member in the 2000's.

1967 - Mrs Henrietta M Buncombe, a founder member and President in 1937/38, seen here surrounded by evidence of her interest in "Produce and Crafts".



1968 - Golden Jubilee Year - The Golden Jubilee was celebrated with a dinner of Turkey and Plum Pudding at the Anchor Hotel. A "flower windmill" (with sails that worked) together with the badge of the East Suffolk Federation made of tulips, carnations and greenery were on display. A birthday cake was presented by Mrs Bateman and Mrs Jewers.

The Footpaths Group was formed consisting of members and husbands who were interested in conservation.

1969 - The WI presented to the Village a complete map of the footpaths displayed in a standing oak frame outside the Village Hall. This was renewed and the frame renovated for the Queen's Jubilee in 1977.

In April at the Group Meeting in Bramfield, Walberswick was responsible for the entertainment. Mrs Bunch produced a performance of "Cries of London" and trained 16 Members in singing various London songs, "Strawberry Fair", "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill" and others. It was so successful that the cast were invited to perform it again at the Lowestoft Half Yearly Council Meeting.



Mrs Margery (Mazie) Allen



Back: Betty Flack, Mary Bell, Mrs

Coucher,
Richards, Mrs Hokey

Joan Holling: Front: Chris

1970's - Footpaths Working Group - Dr and Mrs Rainsdale, David and Fay Chipperfield, Barbara Halsey, Mr and Mrs Pinder, Mrs Bunch, Elsie Bally and others.



During the 1970's/80's, through Mrs Doris English (front row in white) we had a tie up with Eltham WI of Taranki, New Zealand.



1977 - A MAP OF THE VILLAGE PRODUCED BY PHYLLIS MORGANS OF GREENWAYS, WALBERSWICK

THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE, JUNE 1977

For the Competition at the Suffolk Show 1977 Institutes were invited to produce a 'Map Of Our Village'. For Walberswick W.I. Mrs. Phyllis Morgans assisted by Mrs. Pinder, Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Andrews produced a very beautiful map, which was placed 6th in the Competition. There was a superb collection of entries from all over the county.

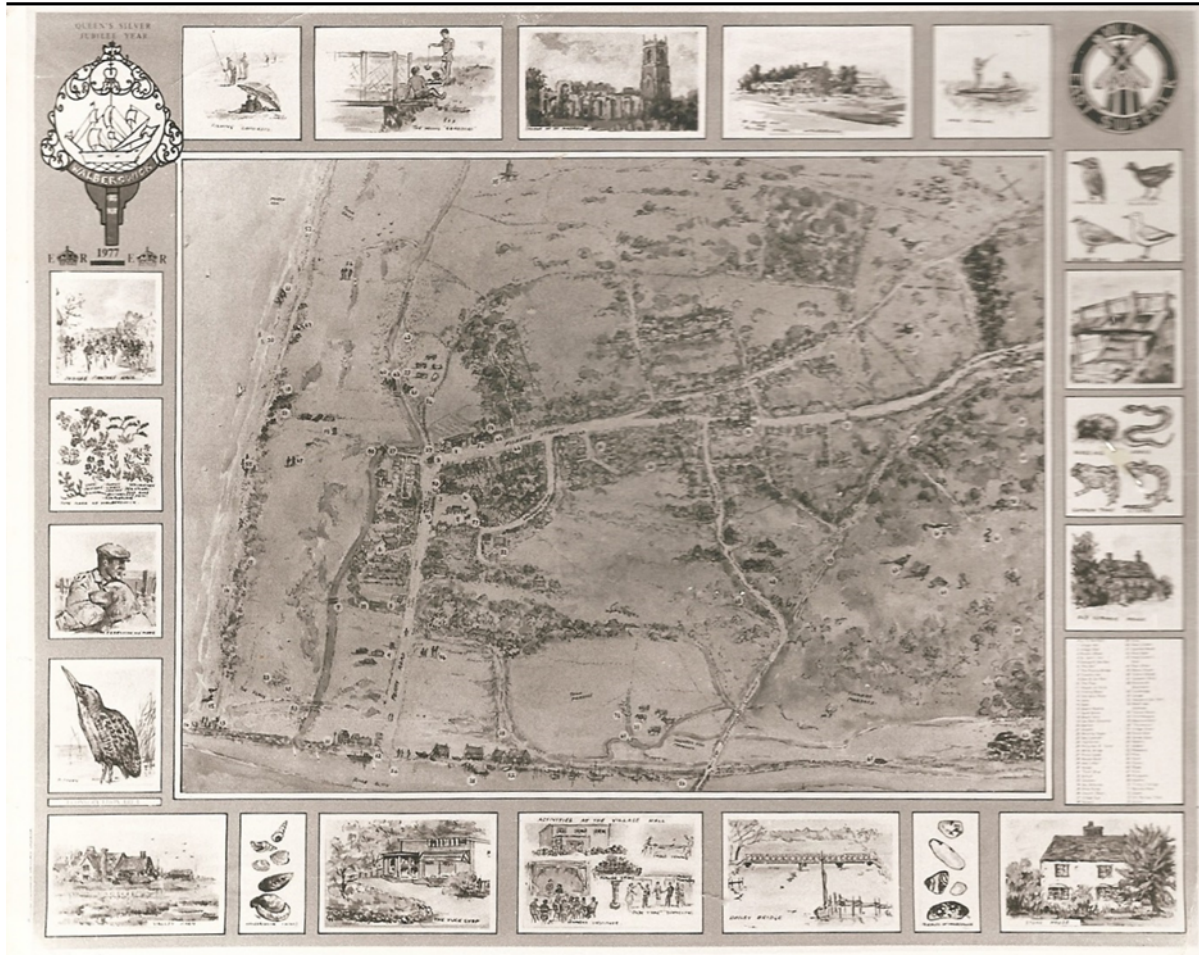
Members admired the Map so much that Mrs. Morgans very kindly offered to have it reproduced and to sell the prints, giving the profits to the W.I. Funds. An Edition of 1,000 prints was produced, and during the year almost 500 prints have already been sold at £1.25 each.

Mrs. Morgans has had the original map suitably framed and it has been presented to the Village Hall, where it now hangs.

A copy of the Map has been accepted by the County Archivist for the Suffolk Record Office, and one has been placed in the Archives of the British Museum. Copies of the Map have also been accepted by the Libraries in the area.

As the Footpaths Map presented to the Village to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Walberswick W.I. in 1968 was deteriorating from damp and fading, it was decided by the W.I. members to have the Map renewed and the framework renovated as a further gift to the Village in honour of the Queen's Jubilee.

In order to raise funds for this purpose, in August 1977 an Exhibition was staged in the Village Hall of many of the beautiful village maps which had been entered for the Suffolk Show Competition. This proved extremely popular and refreshments were served all day to the large number of visitors. Many copies of Map made by Mrs. Morgans were also sold that day.





THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

EXCHANGE AND GIFT DIVISION

Refer to: AG
March 18, 1980

Dear Mrs. Morgans:

I acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt in the Library of Congress, of your gift of the following item:

"Map of Walberswick Suffolk, England," designed by Mrs. Phyllis Morgans, 46 x 58 cm., color, limited edition, number 636 of 1,000, 1977.

Your generous consideration of this Library is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan R. Einhorn".

Nathan R. Einhorn
Chief

Mrs. Phyllis Morgans
Greenways
Walberswick, Suffolk IP18 6TU
ENGLAND

AIRMAIL

1978 - The Queen and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother were invited to the Annual Garden Meeting celebrating 60 years of Walberswick WI.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

24th April, 1978

Dear Mrs Smith,

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your letter of 20th April in which you invite Her Majesty to attend your Garden Meeting on 12th July.

The Queen greatly appreciated your kind invitation but, as I am sure you will appreciate, Her Majesty's programme for the summer is already extremely full and it will not be possible to add anything further to it.

The Queen was interested to learn that this year marks the Diamond Jubilee of Walberswick Women's Institute and sends her warm congratulations and good wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Pen

Mrs. E. Smith.



CLARENCE HOUSE

S.W. 1

25th April, 1978

Dear Mrs. Smith,

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has asked me to thank you for your letter and for the message of loyal greetings which you conveyed on behalf of the Walberswick Women's Institute.

Her Majesty was very interested to learn that your Institute is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year, and sends to you and to all members an expression of her congratulations and good wishes for the future.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for The Queen Mother to be with you on Wednesday 12th July as Her Majesty is undertaking an engagement in London that afternoon, but Queen Elizabeth hopes that you will all have a very happy day.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Basset.

Lady-in-Waiting

Mrs. Smith.

1978 - Diamond Jubilee Year - The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with a Dinner Party in the Village Hall on 9th September.



Peggie Rogers, Olive Quenzer and Edith Block admire the celebration cake.



Peggie Rogers, Joan H, Kathleen Paterson, Fay Chipperfield, Janet Smith



A Bygones Exhibition was held at Longroof, Leveretts Lane, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. This photograph was taken in the garden of Longroof where 60 years earlier the first photograph of the founder members of Walberswick WI was taken.

Back row: Peggy Purves, Kathleen Patterson, Connie Henderson, Betty Flack, Mary Bell, Margaret Lacey, Claudine Powell. Seated: Evangeline Kerridge, Janet Smith and Mrs Bunch

1984 - WI members in Mrs Corson's garden



Joanna Sheldon, Margaret Lacey, Peggie Rogers, Millie Webber, Elsie Bally, Wyn Riddell, Mary Godsmack, Margaret Corson, Margaret Adkinson, Mary Bell, Pauline Payne, Kathleen Patterson, Sylvie Fairs, Gladys Coleman - and others.

1987.

THE FIRST INSTITUTE IN SUFFOLK EAST

THE year was 1918 and a young lady by the name of Miss Strange worked in the household of Mrs. Bee-Bee and was delighted, when it was suggested that she and her sister should become members of a Women's Institute in Walberswick.

Lady Denman, a great friend of Mrs. Bee-Bee and who, at that time, was the First National Chairwoman of the WI fired Mrs. Bee-Bee with enthusiasm and so, in the September of 1918, Walberswick WI was founded and became the first Institute in East Suffolk. The fact that there were no facilities was no deterrent and the first general meeting was held by permission of Mrs. Owen at Longroof, Walberswick.

Sixty years later, on September 9th 1978, 700 miles away on the West Coast of Ireland, lies the village of Schull. A young couple from Lancashire run a bar by a bus stop. On the day in question, the then owners of Longroof, Mr. and Mrs. Purves, were waiting for a bus, when friends of the young couple, a Mr. and

Mrs. Mandleburg, arrived. They were all duly introduced and within minutes Walberswick was mentioned. To Mr. and Mrs. Purves's amazement, Mr. Mandleburg said "My wife was born at Millcroft, Walberswick in 1920."

What a remarkable coincidence, that the daughter of Mrs. Bee-Bee should meet the owners of Longroof, where 60 years previously, the first meeting of the WI was held and presided over by her mother.

Now, it is December 1986 and memories of my mother, Mrs. Gilbert (*née* Strange) flood back and I remember so clearly Felicity Bee-Bee with her brother Tom and sister Mary and hope that as I am now in my second term of office I shall carry on the tradition.

There are still two meetings a month and 60 members, we no longer have to meet at houses, or, as happened later, the hut; but have the facilities of the village hall. I am proud to say that the members still work as hard as ever to raise funds and learn new skills and teach old ones.

P. E. ROGERS
President



Standing: Vida Connick, ???, Leighton Block, Stella Andrews, Edith Block
Sitting: ???, Violet Meadows, Vivien Finnie, Joanna Sheldon

**70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 1988**



**Standing on the right: Margaret Adkinson (President)
Also attending: Peggie Rogers, Janet Smith, Betina Wilson (Treasurer) Bubbles Love, Elsie Bally, Pam Kerridge, Mrs Tyrer**



Wyn Riddell, Ruth Bassett, Kathleen Paterson, Violet Meadows, Elsie Bally, Pam Kerridge, Bubbles Love, Angela McKay, Paddy Kelly, Christine Dungey, Edith Black, Vida Connick, Margaret Lacey, Phylis Wingard, Pat Wythe, Mary Bell, Lady English, Joan Avis, Sheila Diverell

1989 - A Dabble Day was held when members displayed their skills in lace making, printing on silk, wood turning, enamelling, and lino cutting. Also in the 1980's Colley Dalley won the Jubilee Cup for spoken word and Margaret Adkinson was runner up in Class 1.



Dabble Day - Christine Fisher teaching Spinning

1990 - 11th September - The day of the National Tea Party to celebrate the 75th Birthday of the WI - every woman in the village was invited. An exhibition of Crafts was held and Mrs Tracey gave a very interesting talk on the history of Clog Dancing and a demonstration showing how the rhythms were intrinsic to the clatter of the looms in the cotton mills.

1991 - A group of WI members joined more than 200 East Suffolk members in Rendlesham Forest, Woodbridge, to replace trees destroyed in the 1987 storm.



Angela McKay and Dorothy



Margaret Adkinson - President 1989/1990 - 2010/2012
plants a Rowan Tree outside the Village Hall.

1993 - The 75th Anniversary Year - Was celebrated with a buffet supper and craft display. Sandon WI Essex, also celebrating their 75th Anniversary, joined in. The morning before the celebrations, a reporter from Radio Suffolk interviewed Mrs Mary Stanyer, President, and Mrs Peggie Rogers, the daughter of one of the founder members.



BBC Radio Suffolk reporter, John Eley, interviewing Wyn Riddell a former President



News and Information

NATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES

August 4th dawned as a very special day for Walberswick W. I. It was the 75th Celebration of its foundation and by 9.30a.m. appropriate preparations were already in full swing. Village handicraft were being displayed to advantage as also were old photographs and log books of the W.I. going back as far as 1918. In the midst of all the bustle, members found themselves talking freely to a friendly man with a microphone, who was adept at drawing information about the old days from several long standing members. This was John Eley of Radio Suffolk, whose broadcast that afternoon had many attentive listeners.

The festivities had special significance because of a letter having been received out of the blue from a W.I. in the village of Sandon in Essex. It was also celebrating a 75th birthday and suggested a meeting for the occasion. The result by 6 pm. a banner across the entrance to the Village Hall proclaimed a welcome and inside, beautiful floral arrangements in W.I. colours of green and gold, together with streamers and balloons in the same colours provided a truly festive picture. So did the long table spread with a buffet supper of delectable delights provided by the members of Walberswick W.I.

All members past and present were invited, together with representatives of the Minsmere Group and importantly, the Federation Chairman, Mrs Pat Simmons and Mrs Enid Bazirre. V.C.O. The party began with Jerusalem and as everyone had been welcomed with a glass of wine a toast was given by Mrs Simmons for a long life to both Institutes.

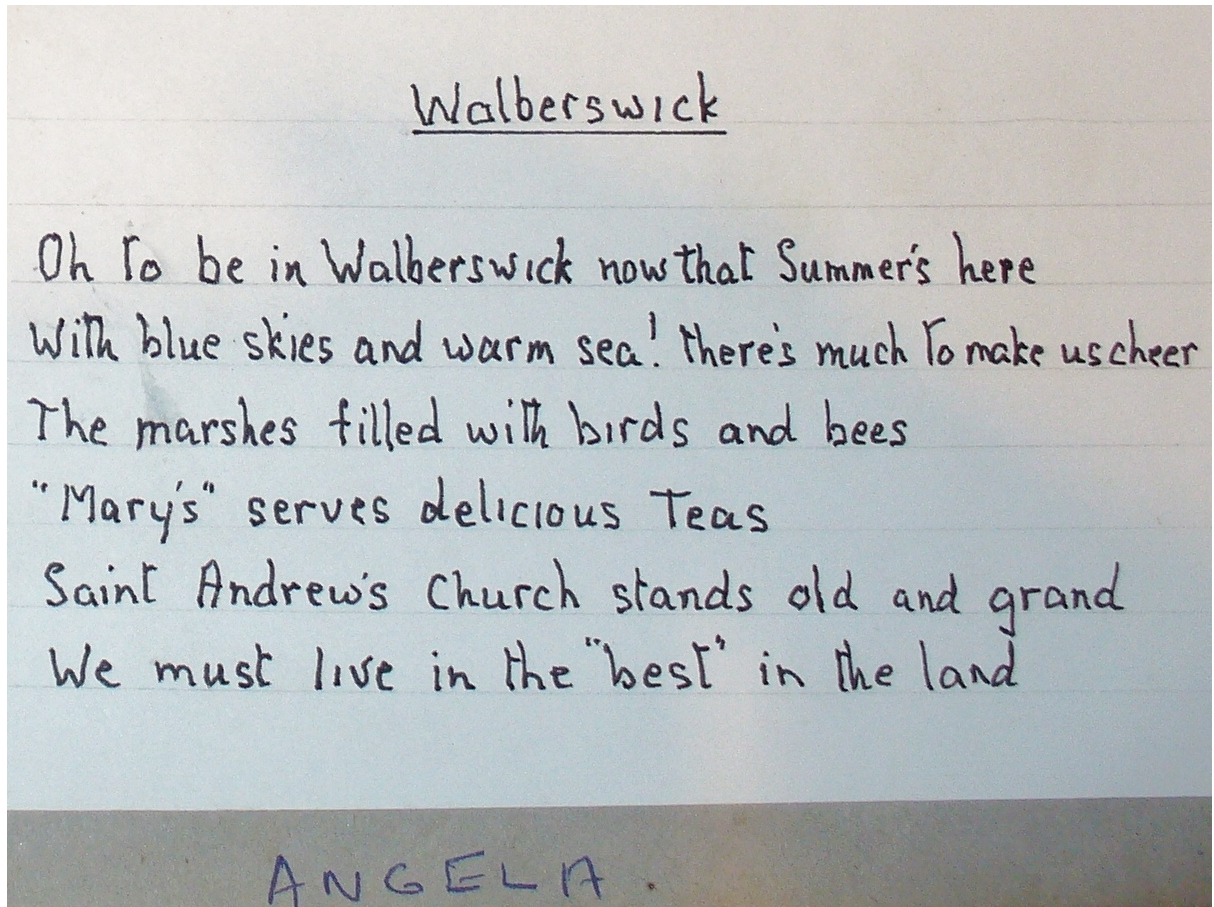
At 8.30pm a magnificent birthday cake was cut by Mrs Simmons and slices distributed to all, together with cups of coffee and tea.

In the true spirit of W.I. founders, a friendly atmosphere pervaded the whole evening. Members freely intermingled and from the ensuing chatter it was clear that it had been a truly "Happy Birthday".

Women's Institute Walberswick County Federation East Suffolk
Name & Address Vivien Finnie, 1, Moorside, Palmers Lane,
Walberswick, Suffolk. Telephone 0502 722203

1994 - A service of thanksgiving was held at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of SEFWI (Suffolk East Federation of Women's Institutes). The service was attended by the Bishop and his wife, Rev John Francis and Rev Harry Webb.

1995 - A Poetry Competition was held "Walberswick now Summer is Here" being the theme.



A tea was held in the Village Hall to celebrate 50 years of Peace. At the Christmas Party a talk was given on a family holiday in Walberswick in 1894 based on the diary of 14 year old Janet Binyon.

1996 - Barbara Taylor founded a Bridge Group, they played in the Village every Monday under the tuition of Peter Watkiss.

1997 - Professor and Mrs Dungey held a celebration buffet lunch at Longroof to commemorate the Centenary of the WI's formation at Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada in 1897 - Jill Freud was guest speaker.



The Commemorative Plate

1998 - The 80th Birthday of Walberswick WI was celebrated and the first Walberswick WI News was printed in January.

2003 - Vivien Finnie compiled a ditty for the SEFWI competition at the Suffolk Show:

“O Larkspur me on so I Speedwell
To love in the Mist with a Harebell
Nasturtiums and Tansy
Brought thoughts of Pansy
And I rose to the chime of the Bluebell”

2014 - A bouquet was presented to Vivien Finnie to celebrate her 100th Birthday.



2015 - To celebrate the 100th Birthday of the WI the Committee organised a Lunch and Revue - a light hearted adaptation from the history of the WI which was originally known (jokingly) as the Wild Indians or Wandering Idiots.



The Committee of Walberswick WI invites you
to a Celebratory Lunch and Revue
on
Friday 6th March
12.00 pm
Walberswick Village Hall
Please wear a hat and pearls
85p
Free Donations
01502 72465 or info@walberswickwi.com

Designed by Jill Willison

Members wore their best hats and pearls at the celebration lunch



Back Row: Doris Brynley-Jones, Irene Prince, Jill Willison, Sue Flack, Erica Donnellan, Sue Pearson, Marian Beard.

Middle Row: Rita Woodcraft, Judith Hetherington, Elisabeth Robertson, Pat Atherton, Ann Beckham, Mary Nuttall, Jayne Tibbles, Julia Josephs, Sue Ireland-Cutting, Janet Kohn, Diana Wright, Muriel Wortley, Sheiriece Bailey-Squires, Sandra Howe

Front Row: Val Anderson, Anne Easterbrook, Sandra Gordon, Chrissie Reeves, Pru Ford-Crush, Margaret Adkinson, Margot Godbold, Shirley-Ann Humphries

2016 - To commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday, members made Crowns to wear at the Village celebrations .



L - R Elisabeth Robertson, Judith Hetherington, Margot Godbold, Sue Walpole



Back Row: Inger Edwards, Jayne Tibbles, Janet Kohn, The Queen, Rita Woodcraft, Ann Beckham, Margaret Adkinson, Shirley-Ann Humphries, Julia Josephs, Jill Willison
Middle Row: Judith Hetherington, Mary Nuttall, Elisabeth Robertson, Sue Walpole, Jenny Cardwell, Margot Godbold, Erica Donnellan, Chrissie Reeves
Front Row: Sue Pearson, Doris Brynley-Jones, Marian Beard, Irene Prince, Anne Easterbrook, Sandra Gordon

At the suggestion of Marian Beard (rolling President) money was raised to plant 1,000 daffodils around the Village Sign opposite the Church to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.



Members and Villagers turned out to plant the bulbs.



Daffodils flowering in 2017

2017 - A tour of the Houses of Parliament was arranged for Members and Villagers. They were met by Suffolk Coastal MP, Therese Coffey in Westminster Hall and had lunch in the Houses of Parliament Café.



FROM THE FRONT L - R: Angie Vaughan, Clive Brynley-Jones, Harry Edwards, Paul Ireland, Moira Austin, Margaret Adkinson, Inger Edwards, Brian Morton, Doris Brynley-Jones, Irene Prince, Sue Ireland-Cutting, Judy Morton, Betsy Lemmon, Jenny Cardwell, Erica Donnellan, Therese Coffey, Marian Beard, Carol Wardell, Judith Hetherington, Sue Flack, John Wardell, Aubrey Pearson, Sue Pearson, John Weston

The trip was arranged by Doris Brynley-Jones and Erica Donnellan to view the Building in its current form before the refurbishments are carried out.

A Centenary Bridge Drive organised by Margaret Adkinson and Erica Donnellan was held in the Village Hall to raise funds to purchase bulbs to be planted around the Village to celebrate Walberswick WI's 100th Anniversary on 9th September 2018. 2,000 Crocus and Snowdrop bulbs were planted on Stocks Green and around the Rowan tree outside the Village Hall.



Members and Villagers planting bulbs on Stocks Green

The Bridge Drive also raised money for the ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) as a donation to their project for the Head-Load Fish Vendors of Tamil Nadu. The project provides training and ice boxes and tools for processing the fish. Money from the Bridge Drive and donations from Members amounted to £600.00 which was handed to the ACWW representative by Marian Beard.



L - R: Moira Hammond (ACWW) receiving a cheque for £600.00 from Marian Beard, Sue Ireland Cutting, Irene Prince, Margaret Adkinson, Judith Hetherington, Erica Donnellan and Jenny Cardwell.



Head-Load Fish Vendors of Tamil Nadu

2018 - WALBERSWICK W I CELEBRATES IT'S
CENTENARY YEAR



THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES BOARD OF
TRUSTEES

wishes to recognise and congratulate

Walberswick WI

SUFFOLK EAST FEDERATION

on achieving its

100th Anniversary

in the year 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lynne Stubbings'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Certified by Lynne Stubbings

NFWI Chair

JANUARY - Annual Lunch at Halesworth Golf Club



L - R: Betsy Lemmon, Mary Nuttall, Erica Donnellan, Angie Spicer, Sue Ireland-Cutting

MARCH



Crocuses flowering on Stocks Green to commemorate 100 years of Walberswick WI.

MAY - Members and Villagers donated homemade cakes and savouries to raise money for Lighthouse Women's Aid in Ipswich to support women and children, victims of abuse. £270.00 was raised



Left: Marian Beard, President



Irene Prince and Sheila Parry

Visit to Munnings Art Museum, Dedham, Essex - 24th May - enjoying lunch in the Cafe



Pam Webb, Muriel Wortley, Jenny Cardwell, Betsy Lemmon, Erica Donnellan, Inger Edwards
Sue Green, Doris Brynley-Jones, Jill Willison, Sue Ireland Cutting, Angie Vaughan, Margot Godbold
Julia Josephs, Sue Flack

JULY

Garden Meeting at the Village Hall. A beautiful afternoon, Croquet and Boule in the garden, quiz inside, followed by tea and cakes and strawberries and cream.



Foreground: Jayne Tibbles, Inger Edwards, Rita Woodcraff
Left: Mary Nuttall, Val Anderson, Elisabeth Robertson and Sandra Gordon



Sue Green, Doris Brynley-Jones Sheila Parry, Erica Donnellan
and Ann Beckham enjoy a game of Croquet



Pat Atherton, Margaret Adkinson, and Betsy Lemmon
enjoy a game of Boule

THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF WALBERSWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

SEPTEMBER 1918

The Ladies of Walberswick met at Longroof, Leveretts Lane and set up Walberswick Women's Institute. Photographed in the garden of Longroof, the home of Mrs Owen seated on the left.



SEPTEMBER 2018

One hundred years later, the 2018 Committee photographed in the garden of Longroof.



L TO R: Sheila Parry, Muriel Wortley, Erica Donnellan (Secretary), Marian Beard (President), Irene Prince (Vice-President), Sue Ireland-Cutting (Treasurer), Betsy Lemmon (Sue Flack was unable to attend)

**THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2018
A CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF
WALBERSWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**



The Commemorative Plate
Made by Thea of Gallery Thea, Southwold
Now on display in the Village Hall

Current Members, past Members and guests from SEFWI were invited to join us in the Village Hall for a lunch of Soup and Puds.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

FOR 100 YEARS

Walberswick WI

has the pleasure of inviting you to its
Centenary Celebration meeting
on Thursday, 6 September 2018 in the Village Hall
1.00pm for Soup & Puds followed by

Our guest speaker, Libby Purves

Broadcaster, columnist and novelist

RSVP: Sheila Parry - parry.sheila@gmail.com - 01502 723103

Walberswick WI founded 1918 - The First WI in East Suffolk

WALBERSWICK WI

Centenary Celebrations

6 September 2018

~~~~~  
**Welcome**

**Soup & Puds**

~~~~~  
Guest Speaker

Libby Purvis

Broadcaster, columnist & novelist

~~~~~  
**Poetry competition readings  
& prize giving**

**Raffle**

**Jerusalem**

## **MENU**

~~~~~  
Tomato & pesto soup

(contains nuts)

Watercress soup

Rolls & butter

(gluten free available)

A variety of desserts

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**Merlot**

**Sauvignon Blanc**

**Soft drinks**

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Tea & Coffee



Celebration cake made by Sue Flack

**MARIAN BEARD, PRESIDENT,
WELCOMED 53 - MEMBERS, PAST MEMBERS AND GUESTS**



**L - R: Muriel Wortley, Sue Ireland-Cutting, Sue Flack, Marian Beard (President),
Sheila Parry, Betsy Lemmon, Erica Donnellan (Irene Prince was unable to attend)**





Andrea Davies (left in pink) of SEFWI (Suffolk East Federation of Women's Institutes) Shares a table with from left: Chrissie Reeve, Doris Brynley-Jones, Judith Hetherington and Julia Josephs



From the left: Libby Purves, Jane Collier (SEFWI), Mary Nuttall, Christine Fisher and Judy Morton



**Guest Speaker, Libby Purves is presented with a thank you bouquet by Jill Willison
Libby gave an interesting and amusing talk on her career in broadcasting.**

Libby's mother was President of Walberswick WI from 1974 to 1976

In 1956 my father was posted to be British Consul in Luanda, in Angola. Families were discouraged from going out, I believe because a predecessor's child had died of Yellow Fever. But my father took the posting for nearly three years - he had been stuck behind a desk in London - and before he went he bought a house in Leveretts Lane - Longroof - to settle my mother, four children, and a mother's help called Vera Wilson.

My eldest brother was nearly 9, and sent to prep school in Nottinghamshire; I was six, my little brothers four and three. Quite a houseful for Mum to run, in a new village...

I was put into the village school, and settled well there and made friends. But for her, the lifeline was the WI. She had no local contacts - a Nottinghamshire girl, who had lived in Warsaw as a diplomatic wife for a few years and then in London while Dad was posted to the Foreign Office. As a Catholic, her church was over in Southwold, so she wasn't immediately involved with the parish, though her attitudes were always very ecumenical and she loved to go to St Andrews for Christmas and special services.

But the WI is non-denominational - open to all - so she joined. I can remember, although I was so young, how cheered she was after meetings, how having company mattered to her, and how very quickly she made friends in the village.

It must have been important, knowing her, that this meant she made friends in all social groups and backgrounds: because life can be very constrained and a bit formal in an "expat" world as a diplomatic wife, and she often hated it and wasn't a cocktail-party type. She felt very much at home with everyone in Walberswick WI, because it was such a good mix. Many of the friendships endured through her life; because after Angola we were in France, South Africa, Switzerland and Germany, but we always came back to Walberswick until they moved in the early 80's to a smaller house across the river.

When we first came back just over ten years earlier on Dad's retirement, of course, she became an officer - I believe President- ? - of the Walberswick WI. And always enjoyed telling her stories of life around the world...

Libby Purves June, 2019

100th ANNIVERSARY POETRY COMPETITION

Members entered 13 Poems in the Competition. Libby judged the entries and the winner was Erica Donnellan seen here accepting her prize - The Walberswick WI Centenary Mug.



ERICA'S POEM

Walberswick WI Centenary Poem

Walberswick WI is 100 years old today
I am lost for words
I do not know what to say
A 100 years of
Talking jamming baking stitching
Reading **talking** writing supporting
Farming digging planting **talking**
Talking funding protesting eating
Drinking **talking** encouraging supporting
Laughing crying **talking** enjoying
Singing creating collating **talking**
I am lost for words
I do not know what to say
It is amazing we are 100 years old today
So let's raise our glasses and shout **HOORAY**

We received many letters of thanks from guests at the Centenary Lunch

7 September 2018

Dear Walberswick WI

Thank you for a wonderful afternoon commemorating Walberswick's WI and the women who started and ran it. They certainly were and are a force to be reckoned with.

I was quite overcome by the evidence that life goes on – so many familiar faces going back to 1980 when I first came to live here – and to top it all the beautiful scroll with which I have been involved in the Parish Council, Walberswick Common Land Charity Trust, and Village Hall Management Committee.

Thank you for bringing it all back. I'm very glad you invited me.

With best wishes

Barbara sadly died in early 2019

Barbara Priestman

9TH SEPTEMBER 2018

(The 100th Anniversary of the first Meeting)

On checking through the Churchyard data on the History Society website, 8 graves of founder Members were located. Marian Beard, President and Muriel Wortley placed posies on each grave in memory of all the Founder Members.



The grave of Miss Elisabeth Helen Powell Walberswick WI's first Secretary/Treasurer



2018 MEMBERS

**Margaret Adkinson, Pat Atherton, Marian Beard, Ann Beckham, Jenny Cardwell, Erica
Donnellan,
Inger Edwards, Sue Flack, Margot Godbold, Sandra Gordon, Sue Green, Shirley-Ann
Humphries,
Julia Josephs, Janet Kohn, Judy Morton, Mary Nuttall, Sheila Parry, Elisabeth Robertson,
Angie Spicer, Jayne Tibbles, Angie Vaughan, Carol Wardell, Pam Webb, Jill Willison, Rita
Woodcraft, Muriel Wortley**