



## Scaynes Hill Women's Institute

100 Years of W.I. in the village.

1917-2017

The Scaynes Hill Women's Institute was founded on April 19<sup>th</sup> 1917 – one of the first in England. Its object was to provide a meeting place for country women where they would find friendship, entertainment and learn new skills and be given a voice in local affairs. WIs around the country were working to produce food during the war years. Scaynes Hill had a rabbit club, and ran a soft fruit cooperative, buying eight dozen bushes between them, as well as growing one hundred raspberry canes. The fruit was preserved in bottles – the ladies were shown efficient ways to do this, and in cans. The photos below show the ladies learning to tinker (mend pots and pans) and cobble (mend shoes and boots) in 1917 during World War 1.





Each year the WI campaigns on a different subject – from equal pay, breast cancer screening, protecting bees and dealing with loneliness in society. We unite to form a force to be reckoned with!

In Scaynes Hill a WI hall was built in Church Lane in 1926 and was used until 1997 when the land was sold and the money put towards the new Millennium Village Hall. Now the WI meets in the new hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, with a craft club every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. We take part in competitions at the South of England shows and go on visits to places of interest – including theatre trips.

This year we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday with entertainment from a sword swallower and tea. We were visited by Jenny Ault and Yvonne Bee from the West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes, they presented us with a certificate to mark the occasion. Jean Sedgely reminded us of the ladies of Scaynes Hill who banded together during the dark days of World War 1, when 12 families in the village had already lost someone in the war, to form the WI.

We raised our glasses in a toast to the ladies who started the WI during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, and to the WI of the future.



A beautiful cake was made by June Ridley.



Today the WI in Scaynes Hill numbers 45 and many of these ladies come from surrounding villages. We support the Flower Show in the village and run a Christmas Market too. We still uphold the principles of friendship and support, and learn new skills from our speakers each month. If you would like to come and join us please contact Sue on 01444 831786 or Fiona on 01444 891217 for more details.

