**Rolleston W.I.**

It has been a lovely summer so far and the good weather has made our outings and events even more enjoyable. We spent a weekend in Leeds in April where we visited the Royal Armouries, museums and plenty of shopping. Our outings continued with a garden visit to Wild Wood Lodge, Anslow, where we marvelled at the beautifully kept borders, the vegetables and soft fruit and the fishing lake, completing the evening with tea and cake. Last week we celebrated summer with our own in party with delicious food and games. A group of ladies went to see Matilda at the Birmingham Hippodrome and we plan to see Calendar Girls in November. We sometimes travel by coach but often go in cars and we must thank our drivers who regularly take us out. Tea was taken at the Secret Diner, Sudbury, and soon we will cross the bridge for a tour of Sharpe’s pottery museum. Rolleston is always busy and many of our members enjoy helping out. Cakes were baked for the Scout Carnival, and three of our ladies judged the entries for the procession, which was not an easy task. We made cakes for Gardens Sunday and also set up a display for the “Profusion of Poppies” competition. Busy hands have been knitting and crocheting poppies all year and produced over five hundred. A small team of ladies, masterminded by Lorna Thompson, arranged the display around a silent soldier and woman dressed in red encircling a small remembrance garden. Inside were the names of the fallen of WW1 who were known to members of Rolleston WI.

We hope to use the poppies again later in the year so keep knitting! Last year we distributed posies around the village and we thought it would be a good idea to do it again. Avril kindly loaned us her kitchen and one Saturday morning her table was covered in foliage, ribbon and flowers. The posies were a gift from our WI and we hope the recipients enjoyed them. Elaine Toon was the worthy winner of the Ann Burston Bowl for cookery. Programme planning for the next season is already underway and we aim to have a good variety of speakers who have been recommended to us. Recently we welcomed an animal sitter, a manager of Trentham estate and the organiser of Staffordshire Victim Gateway and we are looking forward to the next meeting in September when the subject is “Food Glorious Food”. **Later in the year we will be having our Christmas Fair on 10th November in Rolleston Club. Please put the date in your diary.** Verity Conner is President of Rolleston WI and a Staffordshire Adviser. We were very pleased to hear that she is going to be one of the Trustees of Staffordshire Federation. Verity will be very busy, travelling around the county in her advisory role as well as having a leadership role as a trustee but we know she will do an excellent job and may even find time to treat herself to a few new outfits.

**If you would like to come along to one of our meetings you will be most welcome. We meet on the first Monday of the month at the John of Rolleston Primary School, Chapel Lane at 7.15pm. If you would like more details please ring the secretary on 813833.**

Jenny Phillips