

Officially open for business

A RINGMORE woman who has been part of the village Women's Institute group since 1929 officially opened their new hall extension on Wednesday.

Thanks to grants and fundraising efforts by WI members, the hall now boasts a new disabled access ramp, an entrance lobby, and improved toilet facilities.

Around 60 people

gathered on Wednesday morning to watch local resident Alice Mason cut a ribbon and declare the extension ready for use.

Mrs Mason became a member of the WI at the age of 14 in 1929, when the present hall was built, joining her mother who had been a founder member.

Between 1964 and 1967, Mrs Mason was

branch president and, as a valued committee member, was the obvious choice to open the new facilities.

A total of £23,000 has been raised for the project, including a £16,000 grant from the National Lottery, a £1,000 gift from Age Concern, and £1,500 from Lloyds TSB. A further £3,650 was amassed at fetes, a garden party

and other WI activities.

While the construction work was carried out by local builders Alan King & Sons, members of the WI and their husbands were able to do all the decorating, thanks to generous donations of paint and tools from Crown and B&Q.

Thirty-five WI members meet at the hall every second Thursday of the month, and the venue is also used by the parish council and the Ringmore Historical Society.

WI president Gill Tomlin said it was possible that the new extension would attract more groups to use the hall.

'The opening went extremely well and everyone was very impressed, particularly as it's been an ongoing project for WI members and their husbands,' she said.

'We have been generously supported and we are pleased with the facil-



Alice Mason declares the new extension open, with other WI members and supporters



Committee and members of Ringmore Women's Institute, 1929

ities as we feel that the hall is altogether more welcoming.'

DARTMOUTH

