



Drinkstone WI Report for Annual Parish Meeting June 2025

Drinkstone WI has passed its first decade and we celebrated in style. We were visited by the Federation Chair, Maggie Galvin and Brenda Dyson, the advisor who helped set us up. We enjoyed prosecco and delicious buffet food, and we were entertained by the talented Shanty Folk. We are still going strong and now have 24 members. Unfortunately, we still cannot persuade the Drinkstone ladies to join us. They don't know what they are missing!

Our monthly programme continues to entertain and educate in true WI tradition. Towards the end of 2024 we found out about Tools with a Mission with Stephen Spencer – a charity that takes unwanted tools, refurbishes them and sends them to Africa. So far this year we have seen life on a submarine during the Cold War, learned how to look after our feet properly and are looking forward to tasting Drinkstone Ales in June.

In August last year our summer outing was to Helmingham Hall, postponed from the year before. The garden was a profusion of colour and scent.

In September Drinkstone WI hosted the annual McMillan Cancer Coff Morning. Members made cakes, biscuits and other delicious edibles that were polished off during the busy and successful morning. We have agreed to do it again this September.

The subgroups of our WI continue. Stitch and Craft meets twice a month in the village hall thanks to the continuing subsidy from the Village Hall Committee, for which we are very grateful. We have continued to work with local charities knitting and crocheting many items as they are needed.

We made hats, scarves, gloves, a row of Very Hungry Caterpillars and jewellery for our stall at the Mulled Wine and Mince pies event at Christmas. We didn't sell everything but were able to give leftover garments to My Wish and Hats for Sailors charities. We still have space for more crafters to join us. You would be very welcome.

The Book Club continues to meet monthly. The variety of books read is very wide. Members compile a list of books towards the end of the year from which we choose the twelve we will read the following year, taking it in turn to host the meeting.

Coffee Mornings are now a regular monthly event, and we have been to many eateries in the local area, each with good parking and enough room for up to ten of us. Many we will revisit in the future. We have continued to visit the cinema when a film we want to see is on. We have the added pleasure of lunch before the film.

At our AGM this year Helen Cooper stepped down and we elected a new President, Marilyn Lee.

For more information, please get in touch with

Sharon Rose, our secretary, at: sharon.rose068@btinternet.com

or look at our webpage on the Suffolk West Federation website under

“Find a WI - Drinkstone”