

Drinkstone WI Report for Annual Parish Meeting June 2026

A year has passed since I became President of Drinkstone WI having taken over from Helen Cooper in May 2025. Helen, over the 10 years of her presidency, worked tirelessly in successfully building up the current membership, which at one stage had dropped to a mere 11 members, and doubled the number to a healthy 23, a number which I am pleased to report, we have maintained. Our membership consists of ladies from Drinkstone but also from Beyton, Tostock and Rattlesden.

Last August our Summer outing was to Fullers Mill Garden where we enjoyed ambling through the 7 acres of woodland bordering the banks of the River Lark on a sunny afternoon.

Over the past year we have benefitted from, and been entertained by, a wide variety of meetings covering such diverse topics as crime writing, Scottish Reel dancing, sustainable gardening and even how to perform the art of the English Afternoon Tea Ceremony.

Having hosted our first successful MacMillan Coffee Morning in September 2024, we repeated it again last year. I am proud to say that through the overwhelming generosity of the members in providing both delicious bakes and exceptional raffle prizes, along with vouchers and items donated by local businesses, friends and family, it was even more successful the second time around. We are looking forward to hosting the event again in October this year.

In January, we undertook to support the “Moses Basket Project”. This is a volunteer led initiative based in Stowmarket. Items are collected for both mother and new born baby from referrals made by Professionals working with families in need, where they are finding the practical and financial aspects somewhat of a challenge. Once again the members have really taken this to heart and the response has been above and beyond. We already have, and continue to collect many items which we will hand over to Nicky Thomas from the charity when she visits us in September.

In addition to our monthly meeting, various members enjoy the sub-groups of Stitch & Craft, Book Club and Coffee Mornings with the occasional visit to the Cinema or Theatre when there is something of interest to be seen.

We are all looking forward to another informative and memorable year ahead.

For further information, please contact:-

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