

Drinkstone WI Report for Annual Parish Meeting 5th June 2023



Drinkstone WI has had another successful and enjoyable year. Our numbers are increasing steadily with ladies coming from the surrounding villages. Sadly, the ladies from Drinkstone have not been joining us even though we advertise our monthly meetings. I hope that this will change during the coming year.

Since the last Parish Annual Meeting we have had interesting and varied talks including

- My Wish, the charity who support West Suffolk Hospital,
- Suffolk recycling bins - what to put in and what happens to it
- Understanding Transgender women
- The Blood Bikers who volunteer to deliver blood where needed outside working hours.
- Fabulous Faberge eggs and jewellery

We have also made a spring buttonhole, played board games, had a pottery workshop and enjoyed a lively Christmas Party.

Last July Drinkstone WI successfully hosted the Annual Meeting for the seven local WIs that make up the Thedwastre Group, with light entertainment and a cream tea.

Our Summer outing last year was to Gifford's Hall Vineyard where we were given a tour of the vineyard and tasted the wines they produce. We are looking forward to going to Helmingham Hall this summer.

The subgroups of our WI continue. *Stitch and Craft* meets twice a month in the village hall thanks to a subsidy from the Village Hall Committee, for which we are very grateful. We have continued to work with local charities by making bags, teddies and baby blankets for the West Suffolk Hospital departments along with clothes and blankets for the Warm Baby Project and New-born babies in Africa. If any knitters or crocheters would like to join our work please get in touch.

The Book Club meets monthly. We have read and discussed books from all genres from fantasy to autobiographies.

We have also made several trips to the cinema with lunch included and enjoyed regular coffee mornings at local venues.

We hope that next year will continue to be enjoyable, informative and as positive as this one has been.

Maybe this report has made you think about joining us. For more information, please get in touch with me, Helen Cooper, at:

helen@iandhcooper.co.uk

or 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" at:

<https://suffolk-west.thewi.org.uk/>

Helen Cooper,

President Drinkstone WI

June 2023