

Drinkstone WI Report for Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2019



Another year has gone, and we are nearly 5 years old!

Once again, we have had excellent meetings with interesting and entertaining speakers and activities. We may be small in number, but we know how to enjoy ourselves.

We have gained two members from outside the village thanks to advertising ourselves in local parish and village magazines.

The WI objects are to advance the education of women and girls, to promote sustainable development and to advance health for the public benefit. We have, during the past year had a variety of speakers and activities including:

- Talks from The Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and East Anglia Air Ambulance charities
- the History of Bury St Edmunds Guildhall and Bury Underground
- We went on a Bury Ghost Walk on a cold and windy evening!
- We held a Watercolour workshop and a Wet Felting workshop (both of which were very popular)
- The why, when and how of Deer stalking

In August we had a trip to Ely where we were given a guided tour of its Cathedral and a river trip along the Ouse.

Members have also joined in with various local and federation activities such as:

- Bury St Edmunds Cathedral Tower tour
- Federation Autumn Event where some of our talented craft ladies made a corsage, belt and handbag for a “little black dress” made entirely from things in the recycle bin.
- Christmas Fused glass workshop and produced some lovely decorations.
- Promoting your WI

- Federation Annual meeting held in the Apex.

In order to fund our activities, we had a Jambola table at Drinkstone Village Sales Trail and a Sales table at one of our monthly meeting.

Our monthly raffle raises enough money, on average, for at least half the cost of the hall hire.

As the WI financial year does not coincide with the calendar year, the amount held in the WI funds at the end of the year enables us to continue our activities until the subscriptions are due for the next year. We still have a healthy bank balance but will be fund raising next year to keep it steady.

The Stitch & Craft Group continues to thrive. We decided to meet in each other's houses instead of the village hall as there are only six members. If numbers increase, we will consider moving back. We continue to undertake projects for charities as well as working on our own crafts. We also contributed to the poppies for the Church and Village hall.

Next year is the centenary of the Suffolk West Federation and there are plans for some interesting events for all WIs to enjoy. Also Drinkstone will be host to the Thedwastre Annual Group meeting which involve seven local WIs.

We look forward to next year and all that it brings us.

Helen Cooper

President

May 2019