

## **Earl Stonham Annual Meeting - WI Report – May 2021**

We currently have 26 members who come from the surrounding villages of Little Stonham, Creting St Peter, Stowupland, Needham Market, Brockford and Stowupland as well as our own village.

Like most organisations, we were only able to hold meetings in January and February 2020 before Coronavirus took hold.

We met up 6 times via Zoom to keep in touch with members and then when the better weather came we met on the Recreation Ground at the Village Hall every fortnight during July, August and September. Our Annual Meeting in October was a hybrid meeting with 6 committee members in the Clubroom and others joining us via Zoom. The Committee and Officers remained the same as before. We have also set up a WhatsApp Group which around half the members take part in.

The National AGM in London was cancelled and with the money refunded from this we were able to purchase material for Pauline to make into sets of Scrubs for the NHS. She also made laundry bags to wash these in as well as masks for friends and family.

In December every WI in Suffolk was given the chance to Plant a Tree and nurture it for 5 years - we duly received our Oak Tree on December 7<sup>th</sup> and this is flourishing on the Recreation Ground, having replaced an old one there. We made up Goody Bags for every member consisting of bulbs, chocolates, wine, handmade Xmas napkins, handmade crocheted snowflake for our Xmas trees, magazine and quizzes.

This year we have been able to rebook speakers from last year but on Zoom instead so have met this way monthly from February and have speakers booked until June. We are hoping that if everything continues to go well, we will start meeting back in the Village Hall from July.

At the Suffolk East Annual Meeting last March we were presented with a Certificate for celebrating 75 years as a WI - it would be nice to be able to celebrate that properly this year.