

Earl Stonham WI Report 2019

Earl Stonham WI has 26 current members which includes ladies from not only our village and Little Stonham but also Stowupland, Brockford, Needham Market and Stowmarket.

During the year we have had a variety of speakers including those on Jin Shin Jyutsu, The History of Magic, The Life and Times of Joan of Arc, The History of Silk and A Year in the Falklands. We also had a summer visit of a tour of Snape Maltings Festival Hall.

Members attended two Group Meetings where we heard a talk and demonstration by The Kitchen Chemist in May and then in September we were entertained by The Haughley Hoofers. 8 members also met up last October for a walk around Needham Lake followed by lunch at the Alder Carr Barn Cafe. Members and partners had another Invitation to View evening, this time around Otley Hall. Our Christmas meal was at the Stowmarket Golf Club and was so delicious we have already booked again for this year. 10 of us enjoyed an evening at the Hotter Shoe shop in Ipswich where we picked up lots of cut price bargains in their winter sale. 14 of us are going back again at the end of April for their mid season sale!

Joining in with events arranged by our head office in Ipswich members enjoyed a Scrumptious Soups and Desserts event at Earl Soham and a Dabble Day where they learnt various crafts for Christmas. We have held two of our own classes - one making Choux Pastry buns with Carol and another cardmaking class with ex-member Lorraine who has moved to Felixstowe.

We had another successful year of fundraising - preparing sandwiches for a village wedding, salads and desserts for the Golden Wedding of one of our members and serving teas and cakes at the village Hullabaloo. The coffee and food after Carols on the Green raised £185 which we donated to JAM, a charity in Stowmarket for people who are lonely to attend and meet up with others. Our money went towards their Christmas Day meal and various outings.

We are still holding our monthly Mahjong evenings in the Parish Room which are greatly enjoyed by members - this is open to anyone and we are always pleased to see new faces.

Future speakers include those on Edith Cavell, The Sky at Night, Butley Priory and Medical Detection using Dogs. We are also hoping to attend one of the Proms evenings at Ickworth House.

This year sees the Centenary of Suffolk East Federation so lots of events are being planned during the year - look out for our Centenary Windmill on the Green from June 1st to September 30th.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the Clubroom at the Village Hall at 7.30pm - for any further details please contact our President Diane Hurt (711879) or Secretary Lindsey Stone (711602)