

EARL STONHAM WI REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL AGM 2026

Earl Stonham WI currently has 25 members which include those from Stonham Parva, Brockford, Stowupland, Needham Market and Creeting St Peter as well as our own village. Our past year has consisted of 9 meetings in the Clubroom which included speakers on Beekeeping, Flower Arranging, The Good Old Days, Hand Cranked Sewing Machines, Nutrition in Later Life and the Role of an Undertaker. We held two Zoom meetings in November when we heard a lady talk on her Love of Italian Cookery and January when Dr Ian Bedford talked on A Butterfly Garden in a Changing Environment. We also had a visit to Green Island Gardens in July and a Christmas meal at Thornham Four Horseshoes.

We also belong to the Dove Group when we meet up with 6 other WI's – last October we were entertained by a Magician. This year, in June, we are the Hostesses for the Group and have arranged for local girl Kate Elliott to come and talk on her career at Columbine Hall where she has worked in the gardens since leaving school in 1997.

We have also been able to join in with events arranged by our head office in Ipswich – these have included Speakers Showcases where we have the opportunity to listen to possible new speakers for our meetings and also a Dabble Day, a Women Crime Writers Literary Afternoon Tea and a Walking Treasure Hunt in Framlingham. Two members are on their final year of a Creative Stitch course. Members also joined in with the Kurling sessions at our Village Hall – our Head Office like our Hall and have held 3 events there this year so far. 4 members attended the Federation Annual Meeting in March at Trinity Park along with representatives from every WI in East Suffolk. The two main speakers were Lucy Lewis, the first Bomb Disposal Officer in the Army and Astrid King who spoke of her mother Peg Lynch who was the first woman to write, produce and star in radio and then TV comedy.

At the Annual SEFWI Quiz in June our team were runners up after coming third the previous two years – we are now hoping to go one better this year and actually win it!

We also enter a team in the monthly village quiz and have won there as well.

We have a Mahjong Group that meets monthly when around 12 of us come along to play – this includes 4 ladies who are not WI members and one drives from Felixstowe to join us! But we are probably still best known for our catering skills. We served the usual refreshments after Carols (in the Village Hall this year) and raised £163 which was divided between The Moses Project (for newborn babies) and YANA which provides mental health support for those involved in agriculture. We provided one funeral tea last year and were involved with the Celebration for Maddy in January this year – she was a dearly loved member and we miss her terribly.

Membership for our WI is set at £54 for the year which includes 11 monthly meetings, a monthly magazine form our Federation Office and 4 seasonal magazines from our Head Office.

For any more details please contact Lindsey on 07929869925 or email on lindseystone55@yahoo.co.uk