

## **Earl Stonham WI**

Earl Stonham WI currently has 32 members from our village and the surrounding area. Our past year has consisted of two Zoom meetings, 9 meetings in the Clubroom, two visits and a Christmas meal at Stowmarket Golf Club.

September 2023 was WI Day and we were delighted when 10 ladies joined us for the evening to hear our speaker talk on Colour Me Beautiful and enjoy cheese and wine too.

Our Zoom meetings in November 2023 and January 2024 were entitled “Wedlocked: Women Know your place and then Women in Warfare. Speakers in the hall have covered a wide variety of subjects including the Building of the Orwell Bridge (which we made an Open meeting and got 10 visitors), A Forensic Scientist, Sutton Hoo Boat Rebuild (another open meeting with 6 visitors this time) Future meetings this year include Witches and Witch Hunting, The Making of Dad’s Army, a Ukulele Band as well as one of our own members talking on her time in the Metropolitan Police Force.

We have some very capable ladies in our WI and this was ably demonstrated last November when we had our own Craft Day in which members led the rest of us in classes making Pyramid Boxes, Felt Robins, a crocheted star and peppermint creams and chocolate truffles.

We served our usual Coffee and Mince Pies after the Christmas Carols on the Green and raised £130 for the Women’s Refuge in Bury St Edmunds.

We have joined other WI’s for Group Meetings last October and this March when we also had a chance to hear what speakers they have had.

Last year we had visits to West Stow House and also to Dunwich Heath to hear the Nightjars, both trips were opened up to partners.

Our head office in Ipswich organise many days of learning and craft activity which we have been able to take part in. These include Flower Arranging and Lunch, Cookery Demo and Craft Day, Literary Lunch and Spoon Carving. Our village hall is popular with the Federation too – so far this year we have attended a Which Resolution meeting in January here as well as the popular Kurling in April. Last year our Quiz team came a very creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Federation Quiz at Needham Market and this year we hope to do even better!

Our Mah-jong Group meets monthly when between 8 and 12 of us enjoy playing the game and catch up over coffee and biscuits.

Membership is £48 for the year which covers 11 meetings, a monthly magazine from our Federation office and 8 magazines from our National Office.

For any more details please contact Lindsey on 07929869925 or 01449 711602 or email on [lindseystone55@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindseystone55@yahoo.co.uk)