

## Shottisham WI Report April 2025 to April 2026

Shottisham WI currently has 23 members with an annual subscription of £54. Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 2pm and usually between ten and fourteen members attend to be entertained by a speaker followed by tea or coffee and cake before WI business is discussed. There is a monthly collection for the Salvation Army food bank and a raffle held every other month. New members are always welcome and fresh ideas for outings and walks gratefully received

The WI Committee is currently made up of Diane Fleming, President, Liz Cardnell, Treasurer, Pat Southgate, Secretary, Dana Woodmansey and Jayne Backhouse as non-officers. The by-law introduced to limit committee membership to three years after which members may stand down or stand for re-election was reviewed and accepted. Having been rather poorly, we are delighted to see Liz Cardnell making a good recovery and to welcome her back

Two members attended the SEFWI Annual meeting held at Trinity Park Ipswich in March 2026

Mavis Masters, our ex-President reached her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and this was celebrated with bunting and cake at the May members meeting with entertainment by the Felixstowe Ukulele Band

Nine members attended the funeral of WI member and friend Julie Dovey followed by a celebration of her life at Bawdsey village hall. A memorial garden has been planted at the Hall together with a bench and plaque in memory of past members.

The Hall has been given a spring clean and the orchard weeded having provided an abundance of fruit in August. We thank David Backhouse and Robin Pendle for grass cutting and general maintenance. Following the talk given by Simon Hooton on the subject of swifts, three swift boxes have been installed at the hall, provided by Eddie Bathgate from Save Our Swifts

We have enjoyed some really interesting talks and entertainment from a variety of speakers including Chris Bales, a Cyber Security Advisor with the Police Crime Prevention Department on how to stay safe and avoid being scammed, Hattie Bennett playing cello, Ffyona Campbell on Foraging and Wild Eating, Charlie Dawe with 10 Simple Rules for Health, Chris Parfitt speaking on The Land of the Pharaohs, Simon Hooton on the secret lives of swifts and Geoffrey Barfoot an auctioneer for Clarke & Simpson Auctioneers based at Campsea Ashe. We were also privileged to be allowed by it's director Tim Curtis, a one-off showing of the documentary, A Fire Over Shingle Street to which we invited interested partners. Alison Hurley held an art session for members in February with very mixed results, highlighting our artistic abilities or otherwise. We also brought in photographs of ourselves showing a significant event from our younger years and tried to match up the then with the now. Many thanks to Rod Cardnell for all things technical.

There was also an open evening event featuring the Here and Now People Improv comedy group, helping to raise money for improvements to the Trust Hall kitchen. We also hosted another open event entitled "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" focusing on the use of a defibrillator and other life saving methods demonstrated by a local paramedic Colin Davis

Members have enjoyed outings including Kurling at Stonham followed by lunch at Martha's Barn, Hamlet performed by The Red Rose Chain group at Sutton Hoo with a picnic before the performance and Treasure Island - Voyage to the Lost city of Dunwich performed by Eastern Angles at the Seckford Theatre. Christmas lunch was taken at the Sorrel Horse

We have walked through Bromeswell Nature Reserve and then along the Deben river towpath with lunch on HMS Vale, a circular walk around Nacton Shores with lunch at The Levington Ship, a guided walk around Ipswich organised by the Ipswich Institute, lunch taken before the walk at the Melton Coach and Horses, a walk to Rendlesham Forest with lunch at the Sorrel Horse and a walk around Martlesham Wilds with lunch at the Red Lion. Two of our members also walked from the Scallop Shell at Aldeburgh across country to the Red House, previous home to Benjamin Britten.

Good weather benefited this year's Plant and Cake Sale which took place on May 2nd, raising a total of £1526.88 which will pay for the insurance with the remainder helping out towards the project to refurbish the kitchen

The Book Club is going strong. Hosted by Mavis with plenty of discussion accompanied by plenty of wine the books reviewed are varied and include classics, comedy, soul searching and sometimes even a bit risqué

The Trust hall is available for hire and has hosted the annual Pancake Party organised by the Church and weekly yoga sessions. The Suffolk Walkers booked the Hall for both the May Bank holiday weekends to provide rest and food for a group of walkers attempting to walk one hundred miles. These bookings are invaluable to provide the means to maintain and improve the facilities at the Hall.

Work to obtain grants for our latest project, the updating and refurbishment of the kitchen are ongoing.. Good quality oak kitchen units have kindly been donated by Yvonne and Colin Potter and having met with a Grade 2 listed expert from Suffolk Planning and Conservation we have been assured that none of our works need further planning permission. Quotes have been submitted and accepted for damp proofing, re-rendering after damp proofing, some electrical work, ripping out and refitting the kitchen, new flooring, water heater, extractor fan and redecoration. We also hope to expose and renovate the old stove and copper. We have obtained some funding from James Mallinder, Robert Scrimgeour and Andrew Reid. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with our applications to East Suffolk Hall Repairs and also the National Lottery. Thanks to Steve Crane for his input as Project Manager..