

"Shottisham WI have enjoyed a year of monthly meetings, walks and outings.

Our speakers have entertained and educated us with a wide variety of subjects, from Beach Combing, Orfordness, The History Of Magic and Morris Men Dancing, to name a few.

We celebrated the Queens Jubilee with a glass of bubbly and a slice of cake also enjoying a visit from Coxwell Suffolk Punch Stud for a talk, and to meet one of their beautiful prize winning horses, who behaved impeccably on a warm sunny afternoon in our orchard. Sadly, at a later date, we reflected on the passing of our wonderful Queen Elizabeth. We recalled feelings, memories and experiences of our fellow WI member. It was a sombre meeting. Mavis, our President read a lovely piece in the late Queens honour, we shared a prayer and sang Jerusalem.

Several evenings were shared, enjoyed by members of the village too. The Shanty Folk entertained us with sea songs and Shanties. Audience participation was encouraged and after a short break for refreshments and a glass or two of wine, we all heartily sang along. It was an evening enjoyed by everyone. It was requested that they return this summer and are coming again on the evening of June 14th at 7pm. The event will be advertised very soon and tickets will be on sale to those who would like to join us. Mark Mitchell also came one evening and spoke of famous Suffolk people. Another evening that the hall was full of members, friends, family and villagers.

Our monthly walks and outings have taken us to nature reserves, the coastal paths, around historic Ipswich Churches, Orford and other lovely places. We usually end up enjoying lunch together too. The book club meets monthly after reading a book one of the members has chosen. We enjoy evenings of lively discussion, laughter and the occasional glass of wine! Our Orchard produced a good amount of fruit last year which was shared by WI members, the surplus offered to the people of Shottisham. We enjoyed Apple crumble and Apple cake at several meeting with our home grown produce.

We have obtained funding to cover the work and hope that the long awaited upgrade to the toilet area, to disabled facilities standard, will be completed later this year. Our hall is available to hire at very competitive rates for parties, meetings etc. At our recent Plant and Cake sale we were blessed with a warm sunny day. WI Members worked hard to provide produce to sell, great raffle prizes, a children's tombola and a table of Bric a Brac to sell, amongst other attractions. Diana Bickerton also sold copies of her book. Lots of people came to support us and had an enjoyable time. We raised over £1,100.00. This should cover the annual hall insurance cost.

Shottisham WI meet at the Trust Hall once a month, usually on a Wednesday afternoon and have a programme of events throughout the year.

Our membership numbers continue to grow. If you would like to join Shottisham WI, enjoy companionship, walk to help your fitness and mental well-being, listen to interesting speakers for education and enlightenment please contact me for more details.

Diane Fleming. Shottisham WI Secretary.

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