

WISTOW WI ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026

Prepared by fran williams, president



This report is prepared for Wistow Parish Council, and outlines the activities of the WI within the community of Wistow

Wistow WI continued to have a healthy membership, with 24 members. The aim of our WI is to support the welfare of our membership, with regular monthly meetings held in the Village Hall. We have regular speakers covering a diverse range of topics to educate, entertain, or teach new craft skills. Alongside these meetings we attend our Federation events and support the village community and further afield.

Wistow WI continue to support the local Butterfly Project, and the causes they support, e.g. local women's refuges, hospitals, needy families, etc. along with soldiers and families in war torn Ukraine.

For our first meeting of the year we invited MAGPAS Air Ambulance to educate us on the importance of CPR training and how to use a defibrillator. It was quite clear at the end of the evening that although there are two defibrillators in Wistow it would be beneficial to the community if there was a third sited near the Village Hall. Our Federation Resolution for the year was to promote and educate on the use of defibrillators and talks commenced with the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee as to how we could best achieve this. This is an ongoing project.

As part of the National WI Clean River Campaign we joined other WIs nationwide in raising awareness of microplastic fibre pollution. We collectively signed a letter to our local MP, Ben Obese-Jecty to ask his support in urging the Government to publish a clear plan on how it intends to research and reduce this growing issue in our rivers and waterways. We were delighted to receive a very comprehensive reply and reassurance that the Government continue to press forward for a solution of these concerns.

We continued to support community events through the year, creating a display at the Church Flower Festival in May, providing refreshments at the July Wistowfest, and serving refreshments at the VE Day anniversary community event and to the volunteers at the October Village Maintenance Day. In November we commemorated Remembrance providing knitted and crocheted poppies for a display at the front of St John the Baptist church and one member laid a wreath on our behalf at the Ramsey Remembrance Parade.

In November we held a promotional 'Get to Know your WI' afternoon in the Village Hall. There was a small Xmas craft sale, exhibition on past achievements and future plans, and refreshments were served. We were delighted to see a fair few villagers attend.

We held our Christmas Party at the Three Horseshoes in December, enjoying a delicious meal, and continue to support the Village Hall by holding our monthly meetings there.

All in all we had another great positive year within the community of Wistow.