**Annual Report of Nacton Women’s Institute 2021/2022**

As we started our WI year towards the end of 2021 we were still living through Covid and adapting our worlds to stay safe and well. Since our last Annual Meeting we have enjoyed some lovely outings, get togethers’ and listened to some interesting speakers. In a year where we celebrated the Queens Jubilee, we also paid our respects to her following her death. We were delighted to welcome some new ladies to join us and to share with them our monthly meetings and group activities. We celebrated with our members by giving every lady a birthday posy, made by our committee ladies. Our groups of Book Club, Knitting and Mah-jong continued to meet monthly. During the year we knitted squares for lots of blankets and made a WI tree.

We started our year in October 2021, unfortunately having to cancel our meeting at short notice due to COVID19. Despite this, ladies enjoyed the SEFWI Fashion show as well as our glass and pottery workshops. Ladies also gathered at Jayne’s house for an evening viewing of the Polar Express film.

In November we held our Annual Meeting reflecting on 2020/2021. After we had undertaken our WI business for the year, our speaker talked to us about our face being our fortune. We studied each other’s faces and drew what we saw.

Our Polar Express trip was hugely popular and those who attended had a lovely time.

We also celebrated our member Judith Wyndham’s 40 years as a WI member.

In December we were entertained by Mr Karl Lockwood who showed us the difference between an organ and a piano by playing chords and demonstrating sounds. He had us foot tapping with Christmas Songs. We enjoyed a Christmas buffet and shared secret santa parcels with one another.

At our January meeting, our speaker Mr Eric Punaks shared his love of comic verse and had us giggling and clapping along to his funny stories, about a saveloy sausage and a visit to the dentist.

As the windy weather in February blustered through Nacton we heard from Mike Rines at our meeting. He spoke about the Nancy Blackett yacht and how he rescued and restored it over 40 years ago. Having been owned by the famous author Arthur Ransome Mike recognised the derelict boat and sought to restore its glory.

The committee organised an evening of craft for our March meeting. We all enjoyed the chance to sit and chat as we made red, white and blue pom poms for our Jubilee tree.

Towards the end of March, we held our Village Lunch. It was very well attended by members of our community; WI ladies from Nacton and other WI’s in our group.

At our meeting in April, we were joined by Susan Jones from Suffolk Owl Sanctuary. She shared pictures of the different kinds of owls and spoke of their character and habits.

In May at our meeting Kate Osborne spoke to us of the treasures to be found on our Suffolk beaches. She told us of the concerns of rubbish on the beach too. Ladies also enjoyed a trip to Glemham Hall in May with a tour with tea and cake.

In June we held a lovely celebration Jubilee afternoon tea for our village community. We shared lots of memories in photographs of past WI events and members. At our meeting in June we heard from Dr Andy Mason from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. He told us of the work of the charity and its 32 volunteers. He reminded us of the importance of knowing where the defibs are sited in our village. At the end of June, we submitted our entries at the SEFWI Showcase to Orford Street with our fingers crossed that we might win!

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf speaker Jean Maxwell joined us in July with her dog Tessa. She spoke of the empowerment a dog can give to a deaf person and she demonstrated to us how Tessa alerts her of an alarm sounding.

On a summers day in August we gathered in Christine Tattersall’s garden, sharing food and taking time to catch up with each other as we completed our quiz. Our mystery trip was enjoyed by Ladies just before our garden party and photographs of the trip to Wrest Park House were shared.

At our September meeting we were joined by Stella Acapella who had us on our feet singing a Ghanaian call song in rounds.

At each meeting this year we have paid thanks to our ladies providing us with lovely refreshments and some ladies were lucky receiving raffle prizes.

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