

## **REPORT OF COCKFIELD WI to COCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

Cockfield WI has had an active and very enjoyable year. We had a steady increase in membership to 76 at the end of last year but a few members have not renewed due to extended periods abroad or travelling from outside the village in the winter months (notably from Lavenham). We hope to pick up numbers again during the year.

We have a very attractive programme of speakers each month and will be publishing a further year's programme after our Annual Meeting in May.

As well as this, we have had a great variety of workshops and trips which we have organised ourselves or have joined with other WIs in the Suffolk West Federation.

These have included several walks, a river trip from Sudbury, a visit to a Buddhist retreat, ballet in Norwich and Sandringham Flower Show. Our members have also produced some lovely fused glass, improved their sewing skills with Make, Mend and Do sessions and had Saturday cookery workshops and art sessions.

As well as this, members meeting in small groups for craft, book club, to play Canasta and improve their iPad skills.

As you know, the WI is an educational charity for women and as part of this we put forward resolutions nationally each year which, if passed, we campaign on. Last year our mandate was to work on alleviating loneliness and so we started a monthly coffee morning here in the village hall where everyone in the village is welcome. These are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month (except August this year) and we would urge all of you, if you know someone in the village who is isolated or doesn't have much company, to bring them along. We offer a slice of homemade cake too.

Cockfield WI is one of the oldest organisations in the village, celebrating its 89<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. I have been president for the past two years but I shall be stepping down at our Annual Meeting next month when a new president will be elected.

Brenda Dyer  
President, Cockfield WI  
11 April 2018