

## HAUGHLEY WI ANNUAL REPORT November 2022

Note:

1. SEFWI instructions require this report to cover the period between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in line with the SEFWI financial year.
2. The WI Membership period extends from 1<sup>st</sup> April one year until 30<sup>th</sup> March the following year. The Haughley WI Programme covers this same period.

**MEMBERSHIP:** 39 (33 last year)

POST	NAME and COMMENTS
President	Marian Adams
Treasurer	Rosemary Welburn
Correspondence Secretary	Veronica Partis
Minute Secretary	Yvonne Hannan
Committee Member	Pat Burrows
Committee Member	Helene Cook
Committee Member	Sandra Lewis

### HAUGHLEY WI VOLUNTARY ROLES – alphabetically presented

ROLE	NAME
Annual programme design, production and distribution members with member consultation as appropriate	Marian Adams Rosemary Welburn
Welcome packs for new members to include registration and data protection documents	Marian Adams
Birthday card and gift sourcing and organisation of their distribution to members in the appropriate month	Sandra Lewis
Culture and theatre lead, including identifying potential events and organisation of member's attendance	Lynne Mahon
Data protection forms: safe storage of completed forms and safe destruction and disposal of forms when no longer required	Yvonne Hannan
Educational and Social Trips and Visits Lead, including identifying potential venues, seeking members preferences, liaise with venues and providers and make bookings	Rosemary Welburn Helene Cook
Educational and other Trips and Visits: Arrange coaches as needed	Rosemary Welburn
General Meetings Register and compilation of Hostess Rota	Helene Cook
Gipping Valley Group Representatives	Marian Adams Sandra Lewis
Haughley WI Poster displays in her village centre shop	Pat Burrows
Haughley WI Village Hall Representative	Pat Chinery
Lunch Club Lead and Organiser	Yvonne Hannan
Membership Communication System Representative. MCS is the secure WI database for NFWI Member Registration Forms	Marian Adams
Name badges for members and guests	Yvonne Hannan
Parish Magazine monthly news articles to include upload to our webpage via Haughley webmaster	Jane Thompson Julia Brook
Publicity to include posters, articles, provision of tickets for events and liaison with Haughley Webmaster	Yvonne Hannan
Raffles organisation and the sourcing of raffle prizes	Veronica Partis
SEFWI Magazine collection from Library in Stowmarket	Pat Burrows

SEFWI Magazine electronic distribution to Members	Marian Adams
Social media liaison, to include upload of publicity material	Helene Cook
Speakers for general meetings, including identifying potential speakers, seeking members preferences and making bookings	Helene Cook, Marian Adams Rosemary Welburn
WI Member Registration Forms, distribution, ensuring completions, record keeping and liaison with SEFWI and NEFWI as required	Marian Adams
Quiz compilation, adjudication and marking	Pat Burrows

## GENERAL REPORT

As required, this report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The report thus refers to the second half of the 2021/2022 Haughley WI Programme (1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and the first half of the 2022/23 Haughley WI Programme (1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.) The "Covid effect" has forced us to take stock of who we are and what we do. We are actively trying to recruit more members and to increase the range of member activities, their participation in decision-making and running of Haughley WI. At the same time, we are working hard to become financially resilient. So, we have lots to do.

Haughley WI continues to hold its Members' general meetings in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday every month, when Members celebrating a birthday on or around that time are presented with a card and small gift. November 2022 our Committee was re-elected without change and continues meeting regularly to plan monthly meetings, other events and to ensure continued support for our membership. Committee meetings are held in Officers' homes whenever possible, but to ensure continuity, occasional virtual meetings via Zoom have been arranged by our President. October 2021 to March 2022 meetings were held in strict accordance with covid guidance of the day, with special emphasis on enhanced ventilation, face coverings, hand hygiene, use of furniture and facilities and member movements. The use of face coverings is now optional and has been abandoned by most members, which has enhanced social interactions, both at meetings and during other events.

### General Monthly Meetings October 2021 to March 2022 (second half 2021/2022 programme)

Date	Speaker and their topic	Comments
6 Oct 2021	Cathy Sherbourne  'Broke of the Shannon'	An interesting talk, which focussed on the life and times of a local Naval Hero of the 1800's who lived at Nacton.
3rd Nov 2021  AGM: Advisor Jenny Pearson	Inspector Michelle Sparks, Essex Police  My Professional Journey	An insightful talk about her professional journey as a woman in a male-dominated profession and concluded her talk with helpful tips for keeping ourselves safe.
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021	Mike Wabe  Father Christmas Myths and Mistletoe.	A lively, well-researched, well-illustrated, sometimes surprising talk about a Folk Lore character, who we think we know so well. How wrong we were!
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2022	Norma Howell  Medical Detection and Alert Assistance Dogs.	A fascinating insight given into the way specially trained dogs can detect various illnesses and conditions through their amazing sense of smell, and how they have saved countless lives.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022	Michelle Attrill  Deaf Awareness.	An informative and interesting talk which was enjoyed by all. Michelle received special thanks for filling in at short notice due to the booked speaker's withdrawal

2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022	Jane Paley Pets and Us	This engaging talk included an interactive "Pets' Quiz", with unexpected answers, backed up by Jane's clear explanations.
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**General Monthly Meetings April 2022 to September 2022  
(first half 2022/2023 programme)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker and their topic</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2022	Charlie Haylock 'The Dig'.  A ticketed event: free to Members and opened up to the public, who were happy to pay the £4.00 ticket price.	A fascinating, often amusing talk about Charlie's work with experienced actors learning and using authentic Suffolk Dialect in the film "The Dig": a true story about the discovery and unearthing of Sutton Hoo's Viking Treasures
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Resolutions evening with Cheese and Wine  Plus April's deferred business	A joyous, participative Resolution meeting, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well-researched talk by Sally</li> <li>• A Photo competition "Spring"</li> <li>• Show and Tell "Holiday Souvenirs"</li> <li>• A lovely cheese and wine supper</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	Alison Cooklin  Belly dancing talk with lots of illustrative demonstrations	A great time was had by all at this very interactive session, with lots of laughter and interesting Members' moves. The evening concluded with a beautiful demonstration dance while we all got our breath back!
July 6 Party	Summer garden party held this year in the Village Hall, with no formal agenda to encroach on festivities	Members provided a splendid buffet, garden games and lots of chatter. A lovely social and relaxing time was enjoyed by all present.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug 2022	Hawk Honey  The Forgotten Bees	Hawk Honey (really was his name!) gave a thought-provoking talk, aided by video clips. We witnessed an up-close insight into wild bees' complex lives, the detrimental impact of their domesticated honey-bee cousins and some ideas about how we can help.
7 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022	Mike Rines and friend  The English Language.	An interesting, sometimes gently tongue in cheek and slightly risqué talk by this duo of advanced years. Their enduring enthusiasm for the English Language and dismay about its abuse was clear. They shared examples of changes, not always for the better, to the English Language.

**WI Advisor Support**

Our approachable and supportive WI Adviser Jenny Pearson joined our September meeting and gave an overview of how Members can be more involved in our WI's planning and decision making. Members invited to be Observers at Committee meetings. One Member has already been an Observer, so well done Julia and we hope others will soon take the plunge.

So what else did we do between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 until 30th September 2022?

**Launch of new Crafting and Painting Group open to members and non-members alike.**

Led and instigated by new Member Julia Brook. Ladies attending meet regularly in the Village Hall to craft and share what they are doing or their current project. Some group members are more practised than others, but the very skilled Julia is always on hand to help and demonstrate as needed. The ladies are even finding talents which they did not know they had.

### **Quarterly competitions for fun**

Along with our 2022/23 programme we re-introduced our quarterly competitions, mainly for fun, but with small token prizes for winners. The May 2022 Photo Competition attracted lots of entries and was won by keen photographer Rosemary. The winner of the Limerick Competition in September 2022, chosen by the September Speaker, was our very talented Evelyn and is reproduced below. Two further competitions are programmed for December 2022 and March 2023, which we confidently anticipate will be equally well supported.

*There was a young lady from Haughley  
Who was feeling rather poorly  
She was sick in a dish  
Whilst making a wish  
She couldn't be pregnant,... surely?*

### **Show and Tell**

We had a trial of a "Show and Tell" event after the serious part of our May 4<sup>th</sup> Resolutions meeting. Some very interesting holiday souvenirs were held aloft and some equally interesting stories and experiences were shared. However, there was no contest really: it was a popular and unanimous decision to award the first prize to Veronica S, along with her large and well-used vintage megaphone, which she had liberally used to illustrate and occasionally demonstrate, during her very funny talk!

### **Fund-raising raffles on alternate months**

These were organised and managed by Veronica at the April, June, August, October and December Meetings. In August and October we experimented with having themed raffles: Household goods, followed by Condiments. The members especially rose to the challenge in August with a bumper selection of raffle prizes, which generated lots of good-humoured banter! We'll ask members how they want to continue with these raffles: themes or not.

### **Lunch Club**

This informal club is managed by Yvonne H and meets for lunch in a local hostelry on a Thursday or Wednesday every 6 weeks or so, to enjoy great company with plenty of lively conversation. We shared 7 outings during the reporting period: one in 2021 the rest in 2022.

- October 2021: The Dog, Norton – *followed by a pause for the Christmas season*
- February 2022: The Bull, Woolpit
- March 2022: The Chestnut Horse, Gt Finborough
- May 2022: The White Horse, Stoke Ash
- July 2022: The Gardners, Tostock
- September 2022: The Highwayman, Creeting St Mary
- October 2022: The Fox, Bury St Edmunds

Casual, car share arrangements appear to have helped cement friendships and the lunches will continue to be arranged for as long as Members want to go.

### **The 2021 Christmas Dinner**

Held December 21<sup>st</sup>, The Crown Stowupland the event was sadly hit by a wave of Covid infections, but the 12 Members who were still standing (or should that be sitting...) had a very pleasant time. Members voted to trial a Christmas lunch, instead of an evening meal December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We are keeping our fingers crossed that everyone keeps well this time.

**Four optional extra outings** – organised by Rosemary, unless stated otherwise

- November 2021: Norwich Christmas Shopping Trip for members friends and family
- December 2021: Ipswich Wolsey Theatre Rock 'n' Roll Panto Trip organized by Lynne
- June 2022: Shotley Outing for Fish'n'Chip supper
- September 2022: Orwell River Boat Trip

Our long-standing optional events are under review in consultation with members and the notion of a Group bursary for 2023 is being considered.

### **Saturday Community Café**

This friendly well-attended monthly community event is hosted twice a year by Haughley WI who provide, sell and serve freshly made liquid refreshments and homemade cake. The café is a great way to showcase Haughley WI, whilst at the same time supporting a regular community event. It has also proved to be a good fund raiser. Our next stint running the café will be in the Spring 2023.

### **Other events and facilities supported**

Note: All purchases and donations are made from income generated by fund-raising

- Village Hall Committee: Our representative Pat C reports back after each meeting
- Playing Field 50/50 Club. Members and their families subscribe to 24 numbers and between them 13 of their numbers have won cash prizes since the club started
- RBL Remembrance Service November 14<sup>th</sup> 2021. £20 wreath laid by our President
- Christmas lights event Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Cake stall with guess cake's weight by Pat B
- Four-day weekend Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee event 2022. Entry in the Village Scarecrow Competition managed by Julia and cake stall held Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>
- War memorial £50 sponsorship as voted for by Members to commemorate the Balkan Conflicts and their especially terrible toll on women.
- ACWW Raffle Donation of £35 from the raffle held at December 2021 Meeting

### **Fund raising activities**

This has been an exceptionally successful year for fund-raising and our thanks go to both our long standing and newer members who have been enthusiastic supporters and contributors to all our ventures. Details are presented in the Annual Financial report.

### **Future plans**

- We will continue to engage with our Members to try our best to meet their expressed needs
- The programme for April 2023/March 2024 is being prepared in consultation with Members
- Our Recruitment drive continues, with a focus next year on the two new housing developments under construction in the village
- We will seek out new ways to increase our fund-raising and income generation potential
- We will continue to support our chosen organisations as best we can

### **Haughley WI is going from strength to strength**

Our community-oriented organisation will continue to provide friendship, education and fun for all members. We are flourishing under the excellent leadership of our president and becoming more financially resilient under the watchful eye of our treasurer and we have a bright future.

**1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**