

HAUGHLEY WI: ANNUAL REPORT November 2022

MEMBERSHIP: 39 (33 last year)

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

GENERAL REPORT for period October 2021 to September 2022

The “Covid effect” has forced us to take stock of who we are and what we do. However, face covering usage is now optional and has been abandoned by most members, which has enhanced social interactions, both at meetings and during other events. Haughley WI continues to have 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. Our Committee was re-elected at the November 2022 AGM without change and meets regularly to plan monthly meetings, other events and ensure continued support for Members. We hope to recruit more Members and increase the range of Member activities, their participation in decision-making and running of Haughley WI. We are also working hard to become financially resilient. So, we have lots to do.

General Monthly Meetings

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	Female Inspector, Essex Police: My Professional Journey	An personal story about a professional journey in a male-dominated profession and concluded her talk with helpful tips for keeping ourselves safe.
1 st Dec 2021	Mike Wabe” Father Christmas Myths and Mistletoe.	A lively, well-researched, sometimes surprising talk about a Folk Lore character, who we think we know so well. How wrong we were!
5 th Jan 2022	Norma Howell: Assistance Dogs.	A fascinating insight given into the way specially trained dogs detect illnesses and conditions through their sense of smell, save countless lives.
2 nd 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.
2 nd 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.
6 th Apr 2022	Charlie Haylock and ‘The Dig’: A ticketed event: free to Members and £4.00 for others	A talk about actors learning and using authentic Suffolk Dialect in the film “The Dig”: the true story of the buried Sutton Hoo Viking Treasures find.
4 th May	Resolutions evening. Plus April’s deferred business and a cheese & wine supper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well-researched talk about resolutions • A Photo competition: topic “Spring” • Show and Tell: “Holiday Souvenirs”
1 st June 2022	Alison Cooklin: Belly dancing	With lots of laughter and interesting Members’ moves finished with a beautiful demonstration dance while we all got our breath back!

July 6 Party	Summer garden party in the Village Hall, with no formal agenda	Members provided a splendid buffet, garden games and lots of chatter. A lovely social and relaxing time was enjoyed by all present.
3 rd Aug 2022	Hawk Honey: The Forgotten Bees	An insightful illustrated talk into wild bees' lives, the detrimental impact of domesticated honey-bees and some ideas about how we can help.
7 th Sept 2022	Mike Rines and friend: The English Language.	A humorous, sometimes slightly risqué talk about how language changes and the frequent abuse of our own English Language.

WI Advisor Support

Our approachable and supportive WI Adviser Jenny Pearson joined our September meeting. She gave an overview of how Members can be involved in WI planning and decision making, and invited Members to be Observers at Haughley WI Committee meetings. One Member has already joined a meeting and we hope others will soon take the plunge.

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

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

Ladies attending meet regularly in the Village Hall to craft and share what they are doing. Some group Members are more practised than others, but the group leader is on hand to help and demonstrate as needed. Attendees are finding talents they did not know they had!

Quarterly competitions for fun

Our 2022/23 programme re-introduced 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 a keen photographer. The winning September 2022 Limerick is reproduced below. Two further competitions are programmed for December 2022 and March 2023, which we are sure will also be 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

After the serious part of our May 4th Resolutions meeting, we had a trial "Show and Tell" event: topic Holiday Souvenirs. Stories were shared, with a unanimous decision to award first prize to a Member who illustrated her very funny talk with a well-used vintage megaphone.

Fund-raising raffles on alternate months

Raffle were held April, June, August, October and December Meetings. Themed raffles were trialled in August and October: Household goods, followed by Condiments attracted lots of donated prizes and generated much good-humoured banter!

Lunch Club which meets in various local hostelries every 6 weeks or so:

- 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

Great company, lively conversation and casual, car share have all cemented friendships

The 2021 Christmas Dinner

The December 21st, The Crown Stowupland evening meal hit by a wave of Covid infections, but the 12 Members still standing (or should that be sitting) had a very pleasant time. Members voted to trial a lunchtime meal for 2022. Fingers crossed that everyone keeps well this time!

Four optional extra outings were enjoyed by those who decided to sign up.

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

Optional events and the idea of a group bursary are under review in consultation with members

Saturday Community Café

Twice a year this well-attended monthly community event is hosted by Haughley WI with beverages and homemade cake. The café showcases Haughley WI, supports a regular community event and is a good fund raiser. Our next stint running the café is Spring 2023.

Events and facilities supported by our fund-raising efforts over the last 12 months

Enabled by enthusiastic support and contributions from our Membership

- Village Hall Committee: We have an active named representative
- Playing Field 50/50 Club. Members subscribe to 24 numbers and 13 numbers have won cash prizes since the club started
- RBL Remembrance Service November 14th, 2021, with wreath laid by our President
- Christmas lights event Saturday 4th, 2021. Cake stall with guess the cake's weight
- Four-day weekend Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee event 2022. WI entry in the Village Scarecrow Competition and a cake stall held Saturday June 4th
- War memorial sponsorship, in memory of the Balkan Conflicts' terrible toll on women.
- December Raffle proceeds donated to the Associated Country Women Worldwide Charity

Future plans

- We will continue to engage with Members and do our best to meet their expressed needs
- The April 2023 to March 2024 Programme is being prepared in consultation with Members
- Our Recruitment drive continues and new faces are always welcome at our meetings.
- 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

Come along one month to try us out. We meet on the first Wednesday, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Haughley WI is going from strength to strength, has a bright future and we would love you to be part of.

1st November 2022