

Middelton-cum-Fordley WI Annual Report 2022

With a few WIs closing in this area, Middelton-cum-Fordley WI has remained constant in membership numbers, is gaining new members and seeing the return of past members, which is very exciting.

We held our first face to face meeting at the Recreation Ground in June 2021 after Covid restrictions were eased. It was good to see everyone again other than using Zoom. We held our Garden party in July and sat outside in glorious sunshine, with invited guests from the village joining us at the Recreation Ground. In August we came together for the Summer Fete and then in October we were able to contribute to the Autumn Fair. All our members appreciated seeing others again and being able to experience the 'Middleton Magic.' Members again provided flowers, cakes, savouries, jams and pickles.

In September we were once again meeting in the Village Hall with speakers enlightening us on a wide range of topics. Sally Sibley spoke to us about 'The Women of Sutton Hoo,' local resident Julian Cusack spoke to us about 'Nature and Well-being' and another village resident Doug Bone spoke about his work in Antarctica and the glacier that has been named after him. In December we were able to hold our Christmas party, not our usual highly entertaining celebration due to some restrictions still in place but we enjoyed mulled wine, fabulous food and a festive quiz.

There have been changes within our WI committee this year. Four members of the committee retired in November after giving many years of meritorious service between them. We wholeheartedly appreciated the work covered by our ex members, especially our president Lucy. We are so glad they are still around to give us help and advice. Jenny, Clare and Lynne remained on the committee with Lynda taking on the role of president. Christine from the village also joined the committee.

This year began with a talk by Deb Johnson from the Lighthouse Women's refuge centre in Ipswich on 'The Hidden Pandemic.' The WI gave a sizeable donation to this charity. Our talk in February was cancelled but in March we had a very timely fascinating discussion by Steve Everett on 'Adders'. We also raised a large sum of money to donate to the Ukrainian Refugee Appeal.

Beyond our WI we have 5 clubs that meet on a regular basis. 3 clubs, Film, Book and Lunch clubs have been meeting for a number of years but this year we have also introduced a Gardening Club and an Art Club. The Garden Club meets monthly and is in the process of setting up visits to local inspirational gardens. The Club also swaps seeds, seedlings and useful advice. The Art Club is organised by local artist Christine who is introducing the group to water colour painting. The WI hopes to hold an art exhibition in the autumn to celebrate the work of the Art Club.

Middleton-cum-Fordley WI will continue to support others in the local community and be beyond whilst continuing to provide friendship, fun and enlightenment for members.