

BLEASBY WI – ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025 Bleasby WI members have enjoyed varied and interesting activities in the village and surroundings during the last year. Our monthly speakers, from all walks of life, have presented talks on a wide variety of topics. We learned new insights into the Mary Rose, Henry V111's flagship, we heard the story of a brave Polish nurse who aided Jews to escape from the Nazis, and enjoyed an illustrated talk on Japanese gardens. Closer to home, the Kate Greenaway Action Group from Rolleston shared fascinating details about the Victorian illustrator and her links to the village. We've also enjoyed cookery demonstrations by our own member and Bleasby resident Terri Swift. We are grateful to St Marys church which we are allowed to use when our outdoor Summer picnics are impossible due to bad weather. Our Christmas parties held in the Village Hall are always good fun, with games, entertainment and of course, delicious food. We have regular groups, such as the monthly book club, craft activities, outings and meals. However, WI members are always mindful of our responsibilities to the neighbourhood and to those less fortunate than ourselves. Our village activities throughout the year have included a litter-pick (unfortunately a flourishing achievement) a tea party for senior citizens, a charity cake sale and collections of bedding for Forget me Notts charity for abused women and their families forced to leave home. We enjoy the company and conversation of several residents to the Manor Farm Tea Shoppe for a delicious weekly lunch, We were delighted to welcome the Bleasby school children at our April meeting who sang for us and set us the challenge of also signing by Makaton. Our special thanks to the children and to their teacher Mrs Dunning. Whilst the number of members remains quite healthy for a small village, we would love to welcome any new ladies. We hope that our local village activities for the family may help to attract Mums of school children and any new residents. We are planning a day of 1940s-type activities and games to celebrate the anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8 May in the Glebe Field and Waggon & Horses pub.