

GREAT ASHFIELD & BADWELL ASH WI 1924 - 2025

REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCILS

PRESIDENTS REPORT May 2025

We have enjoyed another busy year with some excellent speakers. At our AGM in May 2024 our Committee was re-elected for the year.

Celebration was the order of all things during 2024. In April 2024 we held an open meeting and our speaker Tim Foreman From SERV Suffolk and Cambridge, also known as the "Blood Runners," gave a very interesting and informative talk. We were somewhat shocked as to how much the NHS relies on them and how hard the volunteers all work. June saw us all celebrating our Centenary with an afternoon tea (provided by Casper's Catering) in Badwell Ash Village Hall. We also had a magician entertaining us. Everyone worked together to create a memorable afternoon. Our July meeting was a garden visit to Fullers Mill and was part of our celebrations. Beautiful gardens to wander through, with some delicious refreshments to end the afternoon. August, our garden party was held in the beautiful garden of Kate and Ian. An enjoyable afternoon, which included a Bring & Buy Sale. We had another Open Meeting in September with our speaker Dr Stephen Ashworth, a Professor of Chemical Physics & Science who gave us a talk on Kitchen Chemistry. An entertaining and amusing evening which also included some rather loud bangs and flames! October saw us listening to a talk on "How to help our Hedgehogs" with Jonathan Housego. We all learnt many tips on how to help them. We held another very successful Christmas Fayre in Badwell Ash Village Hall. Lots of varied stalls, and with a good flow of visitors who also enjoyed the refreshments on offer. Our November meeting speakers pulled out at the last minute and Nancy managed to find Cheryl of "Artistry in Cocoa" as a late replacement. Cheryl showed us how to make truffles in several different ways and told us all about the history of chocolate. It was very good, educational and entertaining, with delicious samples. December saw the culmination of our Centenary celebrations with a Members Christmas Lunch held in the Lord Thurlow Hall in Great Ashfield. Casper's Catering once again catered for us and served us all a delicious meal and even did all the washing up. January 2025 our meeting was "Wimbledon behind the Scenes" with Wendy Smith a former line judge. Unfortunately our February meeting had to be cancelled. Our March meeting saw us with two speakers from The Suffolk Punch Trust based at Hollesley Bay. These iconic horses are woven into the history of our agricultural county. Another Open Meeting in April with a fascinating talk by Lucy Lewis who was Britain's first female bomb disposal expert. The meeting was very well attended with many visitors joining us and very much enjoyed by all.

Our membership has remained steady and we have had new ladies join us. Unfortunately our longest serving member of some 44 years sadly passed away recently. She will be sorely missed. We always extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us. Do come along and see what we are all about.

Midge Hawkins

President