

Women's Institute President – Michelle Callinan Report to the Annual Parish Council Meeting 16th May 2024

Good Evening

We have had a busy year with some great events and speakers

A garden meeting held on a cold evening was spent warming ourselves around the fire wrapped in blankets enjoying hot drinks.

A fun talk from a former WI President, not from our institute, who came later in life to Burlesque. She told us of her journey and the number of other women she had helped along the way.

Fabergé Eggs with Jason was a fascinating evening and no one wanted to go home.

The talk on the influential ladies of Ickworth House over the centuries was very interesting.

We held a Literary Lunch earlier this year, this was a first for us, our ladies had a lovely lunch and we learnt a lot about spices.

We held a Bazaar to help with funds and ran the tea stall at the village fete giving a donation to the Community Council.

We have continued our Coffee Mornings and Soup Lunches and have been very pleased with the numbers attending. We do this for the community and know it helps with socialisation, gives a warm space, helps tackle rural isolation and provides a lunch for anyone for a donation of a pound.

Thank you to my deputy and to the committee for their continuous support over the year, they are a wonderful team, I couldn't do my role without them.

The WI is open to new members, you can attend up to three meetings without charge to see if it is right for you. Hope to see you at a future meeting.

Michelle Callinan