



THURTON, ASHBY & DISTRICT WI
Charity Reg. No 101754



President: - Jill Chadwick

Secretary: - Maggie Coe

**Acorns
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Ms Linda Gray
Parish Clerk
Ashby St Mary Parish Council
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Loddon
Norfolk NR14 6LE

19 April 2010

Dear Madam

Thurton, Ashby and District Women's Institute
Report 2009 – 2010

Thank you for your letter requesting a report on the activities of Thurton, Ashby and District WI over the past 12 months.

We have a membership of 24 and meet on a monthly basis for our members' meetings as well as monthly committee meetings.

We have invited many friends from neighbouring Women's Institutes to some of our meetings as well as enjoying their hospitality. During the year we have had a variety of speakers including Mr Jim Leathers who spoke about his family's business and how it involved people, farms and buildings in the locality. Another local speaker was Mrs Angie Broadberry who entertained us at an open meeting about her father's holiday memories showing us film he had taken on a clockwork camera.

Members have attended the Norfolk Annual General Meeting held at St Andrews Hall, Norwich and we ensure that we correspond with our Norfolk office if we feel that we can illustrate our situation as a WI in a rural community. In the last year we applied for a bursary from Yorkshire Tea and we were unsuccessful however we are applying again this year asking for financial support towards the cost of a hearing loop to be installed at the village hall.

In 2009 the WI celebrated their 90th year and our WI took part in the celebrations. Some members rang the bells in Thurton and Ashby St Mary churches on 17 June 2009 taking part in bellringing across the County. Radio Norfolk interviewed our members whilst at Thurton Church and this was aired with the sound of the bells in the background. Members also attended a garden party in the Cathedral Close, Norwich as part of the celebrations.

As members had enjoyed the bell ringing we have organised a small group of our members who are called A Peal of Belles who regularly ring the bells at both Thurton and Ashby St Mary churches

We continue to gather together to take part in walks in the area, these walks are organised by David and Betty Catchpole and are enjoyed by many members of our WI

During this year members of our WI have taken part in the County's WI 10 pin bowling league. At the time of writing they are through to the play offs for the plate.

As a WI we raise funds by holding an annual Jumble Sale in the village hall, we hold a raffle at our monthly meetings and, when we have an afternoon tea with a speaker present, we ask for an entrance fee. The money raised from these events help us to run our WI.

In 2009 several members attended an assembly at Thurton School to hand over the community chest that we have had made and filled with items illustrating life in the locality from times past.

We have taken part in village events over the past year and continue to do so as well as promoting events in Thurton, Ashby St Mary and surrounding villages at our meetings.

In conclusion I hope I have illustrated, by giving you just a taste of what we do, that we are a thriving, forward thinking Women's Institute.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Maggie Coe
Secretary, Thurton, Ashby and District Women's Institute