

Thornborough & Thornton WI Annual Report 2023/2024

We start by thanking Teresa Connolly and Pam King who stand down after steering the WI ship for 5 years, a huge thank you for a job well done and for your ongoing support to the new president and secretary, Liz Julier and Suzanne Osborn. Their 5-year tenure took the WI through covid, moving the meetings online and introducing many of us to zoom and we continue to offer remote zoom access to our WI meetings.

Over the past 12 months we have been fortunate to have a wide range of speakers covering a diverse range of topics including Cynthia Tooley from the Jedidiah Pantry, a local food distribution hub for those who need support, Victoria Grainge who spoke about developing Horwood Cherries and from further afield the amazing volunteering work of Carol McCutcheon who has worked tirelessly to support Cambodian children and their families living on a refuse dump.

Our May meeting was a WI first as we held a Hustings. We invited the five parliamentary candidates for our new ward of Milton Keynes & Bletchley to come along and speak on our 2024 WI Resolution 'Dental Health Matters' and our proposed resolution for 2025 regarding 'Care Leavers'. We were delighted that both the Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates accepted our invitation in person and the green party submitted a report. Their time and insights were greatly appreciated by members and visitors alike and demonstrated by the lively Q&A session. We warmly welcome visitors to come along and listen to our speakers with tea & cake always available!

We are lucky to have three WI subcommittees who focus on specific areas; catering, craft and our newly formed resolutions committee.

- The craft committee produced an amazing 'Alice in Wonderland' entry at the Bucks County Show and came a very close second, they will be aiming high for 2024. This group has also taken on the huge task of making curtains as part of the Thornborough Village Hall refurbishment.
- The catering committee continues as busy as ever with numerous catering events throughout the year. They provide valuable income for the WI and an amazing service to the community.
- The WI is fundamentally a campaigning and educational body and has an annual resolution which all WI's vote on and support. Our newly formed resolutions group are researching the needs and issues of children as they leave the care system and preparing to submit a future national resolution.

As always, a huge thanks to everyone on the WI Committee who work so hard behind the scenes to make things happen and to all our members who continue to support the aims and objectives of the WI. We are always looking to welcome new members, please come along on the first Wednesday of the month, 7.30 Thornborough Village Hall (St Marys Church, Thornborough during the village hall refurbishment) and join us for a no obligation taster.

Suzanne Osborn, WI Secretary