

Annual Report of Nacton Women's Institute 2025-2026

As we started the New Year in January 2025 we heard from Sandra Gold-Wood who told us all about the Canary Girls: the women and children who worked in the munitions factories during two world wars. She also spoke of the attempts to get their work recognised by erecting a memorial.

We discussed the four National Federation of WI's Resolutions and voted on these.

Our member Cathy Brown spoke to us at our February meeting sharing pictures of the culture and wildlife she came across on her trip to the Galápagos Islands. We held a small pennies for friendship collection for ACWW.

Our President Paula was interviewed by The Suffolk magazine and took time to promote the purpose and inclusivity of WI's for local women.

Having previously completed surveys for SEFWI on communications we heard we had won the challenge as a large WI who returned the most surveys.

At our March meeting we were joined by Forensic Biologist Mary Newton who talked us through some of the crime scene casework she had undertaken.

Our delegate member and three of our members attended the SEFWI Annual meeting at Trinity Park.

We held our annual fundraising Village Lunch with ladies cooking and baking food to share with our 80 local guests.

Two of our ladies visited Kirton and Falkenham WI for their Birthday meeting.

In April Chris Parfitt came to share his visits to the Isles of Scilly with us. He shared pictures of the Isles telling us of its history and the beautiful gardens of Tresco.

Ladies knitted rats for the Land Army 'longest yarn' exhibition.

In May we hosted the Group meeting in Nacton Village Hall. WI members from WI's across our Group to hear from Mike Fahey a Henry VIII impersonator. We congratulated our Treasurer Vivien on winning the Tudor Rose Competition.

We held our meeting at The Hut in Felixstowe for our May meeting holding an evening quiz and took time to chat with fish and chips by the sea.

In June we were visited by SEFWI Board Trustee Anita Scruby and WI Advisor Cindy Lawes. Our speaker for the evening was Michelle Atrill who gave us an introduction to British sign language.

We held our Summer Garden Party in July this year. Our member Rosemary Cook kindly offered the use of her garden and swimming pool to us all again. Ladies enjoyed a swim, a quiz and a light supper as the weather held for a beautiful evening.

We had a display of some of the hats, scarves and blankets knitted by ladies for Ukraine at our August meeting and we were joined by a volunteer for East Anglian Air Ambulance, who spoke to us about the charity who provide 24/7 life saving emergency care to the people of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

At our meeting in September we heard from Mandy Cox-Osborne about the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and how our donations help support our armed forces.

Other WI activities and community projects

Our Mahjong group meets fortnightly with our member Janet Miles hosting ladies to come together.

Ladies continued to meet fortnightly for the Knitting group

Our monthly for our Book club meets in ladies' homes.

Our lunch club meets monthly at local dining venues suggested by ladies.

Our Treasurer Vivien Hartill and Committee member Janet Meekoms have attended WI Group meetings on our behalf.

WI Outings and visits

In September Ladies visited Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse with lunch and shopping time in Swaffham, Norfolk.

Attendance at Federation Events

Our Treasurer Vivien Hartill has been our representative at some Federation events.

Janet Meekoms was our delegate at the SEFWI Annual Meeting.

Our President Paula Warner, Treasurer Vivien Hartill and Secretary Teresa Budrey attended the SEFWI Officers meeting in July 2025.

NFWI Annual meeting

We didn't have a delegate to attend this meeting so a nominated delegate from Levington WI kindly attended NFWI Annual Meeting on our behalf.

Members that sit on the Federation and other sub committee's

Our Treasurer Vivien Hartill is on the SEFWI Board and other sub committee's.