

After 18 months of Covid restrictions where the committee meetings were held via Zoom sessions, 30 members were finally able to meet up and socialise face to face at a 'Bring you own picnic' on Buxhall playing field in July 2021. Our first indoor meeting was the following month.

In September 2021 Buxhall WI members were totally committed to re-kindling our well established support of village events. We hosted the refreshments at the Village Show with the proceeds being used to purchase and donate 60 mugs to the Village Hall. We reintroduced the Harvest Supper, albeit for only 50 people following Covid guidance. The WI was proud to be involved with these events and supporting our friends and neighbours to gradually return to a more 'normal lifestyle'.

Our monthly meetings and activities gradually continued to return to their former routines. Christmas was as festive as ever with the making of table decorations and wreaths followed by the Buxhall Bell Ringers. Members were also delighted that a previously postponed 2020 trip to the Christmas Extravaganza at Snape was also able to go ahead. This was the final trip to be organised by Libby Murton who, after many years' service, had retired from the committee in November and sadly died on New Year's Eve.

Members have been delighted with recent guest speakers giving presentations about otters and their reintegration into the R Blythe, a behind the scenes look at pantomime dames and a fascinating insight into the life of a Wimbledon line judge.

Our 'Ladies at lunch' and 'Knit and Natter' groups now meet on a regular basis with our 'Evening Walk and Supper' group is due to restart shortly. Members have recently enjoyed a visit to Trinity Park for the Suffolk Federation Annual Meeting and a trip to Sutton Hoo in March.

It goes without saying that Covid restrictions or not, the WI continue to perform their annual Buxhall litter pick just before Easter. We also continue to support the 'Lighthouse' charity which supports and empowers women, young people and children affected by domestic abuse or violence.

As our annual year now runs from April, a new programme for 2022-2023 has just been published and includes 7 days of trips over the coming months. We are delighted that our membership remains high at 47 members and includes several new residents to Buxhall joining us during the last year. We were all saddened to hear of Jean Squirrel's death recently who was one of the founder members of Buxhall WI over 70 years ago.

Looking ahead, the future of Buxhall WI looks bright in so many ways. We consider ourselves to be an integral part of the village and members are looking forward to supporting village events this coming year such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, Buxhall and Shelland Church Fete, Buxhall Village Show and hosting the annual Harvest Supper.

Hilary Hall
(Minute Secretary)