

Busy is all we can describe September as. As part of the Federation Open Day a combined Stalham and Sutton WI team took part in the Treasure Hunt in Norwich. We started with a cuppa before wandering around Norwich trying, and occasionally failing, to find answers to questions and spot some near impossible photo locations. It was a very hot day and there was definitely the need for fluids and the drinks break halfway round was very welcome. Having lost Sutton WI members on Castle Meadow, thanks to a misread bus timetable, only three of the team made it back to Evelyn Suffield House. Once there it was time for more refreshments, and then a tour of the house (from the attic to the cellar) and a chance to see if there was anything in the archives for the original Stalham WI (we reformed approx 10 years after they closed). Pleased to say that there was, including details of gifts for outgoing Presidents of a handbag! Our current president has since put in a bid for a designer handbag for when she stands down from the role. There was also a photo of one of the Stalham WI secretaries, a Mrs Landsell, who had been secretary for 27 years (it was over two stints)! Our current secretary has already stated she will not be filling the role anywhere near that long, even she is not that dedicated.

Our monthly meeting was a CPR and Defibrillator workshop given by the East Anglian Air Ambulance. It was a useful meeting even for those who have had this training in the past (there are several retired nurses in the group including our President), but procedures change and it is always good to have a refresher on what we think we know. Ann the instructor kept it interesting, although she did regret her comment about joining the WI when she was older.

Two days after the monthly meeting was our Summer Trip on the River Bure. Unlike last year's social the weather was glorious. Some of us may have missed the request to arrive no later than 1:40pm (the secretary admitted it was her fault, so she had to partake in a little exercise to round up some members). Thankfully no one was left behind. The trip itself was brilliant with plenty of wildlife on view including herons and geese, and some were lucky to spot a couple of kingfishers as they zoomed past. To add an educational element there was a very fiendish quiz on Norfolk, set by the secretary (personally she thought it was easy but then she did have the answers). There was however plenty of laughter, and chat.

Unfortunately, the month hasn't all been good news, as the tree we had planted in July to celebrate the Coronation suffered from an attack by local vandals, resulting in the destruction of the plaque with details of why and who had planted it. This has been a huge disappointment to our members, especially as it was the first memorial tree from the group, adding to similar trees planted by the town's WI Members. The plaque has now been replaced.