

July 2023

July has been another busy month over in Stalham, with the planting of the Coronation tree, the monthly meeting, and a Bingo Session as well as meetings of our two subgroups (the Book Group and 'Coffee Cups and Flower Pots').

Firstly the tree..... yes Twiggi (so called because it actually was just a twig when it arrived) has left our secretary's garden, which to be honest is a relief after nearly 10 months of waiting and keeping it alive! A plot near the town burial ground is its new home, and hopefully it will grow and eventually produce some crab apples to feed the local wildlife, and maybe even make some jam. The planting took place on the 3rd July and was well attended, with 10 members present and several members of the Town Council including Stalham Mayor.

July's meeting was a talk on quilting by Heather Hasthorpe and even the non-crafty members couldn't help but be impressed by the works of art (yes they are works of art) which we saw. The meeting was very well attended, and in fact it was the best attended since our formation with 29 ladies present. It also saw us grow in size again with two new joiners (we now have 30 members which has exceeded our hoped for growth already for the year).

Both of our new sub-groups held meetings. The book group met on the same day as our bingo afternoon fundraiser, but in the morning. Not ideal, but in future we will try to make sure there is no conflict of activities. Book club had a lively discussion regarding the first book selected as most of the group apparently didn't like the book selected to read. Hopefully the next selection will be more to people's taste. The 'Coffee Cups' met up at the Salhouse Garden Centre this time and going by the photos had a very enjoyable morning not just socialising, but viewing and even buying plants as well.

Finally we come to the Bingo afternoon. Where to start with this fundraiser? At the beginning it sounded good. Anyone who knows about The Stalham Broad's WI's first twelve months will know things rarely go to plan, if it isn't one problem it's another, so it was hardly surprising to find the doors to the Town Hall firmly locked when the committee arrived just before 1pm to get set up. Not only were we locked out, of course it then started to rain. We did manage to get in the building 25 minutes later than planned, and with some assistance, managed to get set up very quickly. Once the bingo got started things improved. There were none of the problems with balls from our last bingo event and no problems with the mobile phone app (even the caller coped). It was an excellent turnout, and the treasurer needn't have worried, despite it clashing with a few other activities. The homemade scones were perfect and before anyone asks, yes we will be doing another session at some point.