

October was a relatively 'quiet' month for The Stalham Broads WI (workmen on the meeting day excepted). That is not to say that there haven't been things going on. Indeed, we've held yet another Bingo fundraiser, whilst some of the ladies went to the Theatre Royal to see the Full Monty, all on top of our usual monthly meeting.

Regular challenges are something The Stalham Broads WI have come to accept. This month's meeting was no exception! We weren't locked out of the Town Hall (not for the monthly meeting at least) thankfully, but we had workmen digging up the alleyway between the Town Hall and the chemist to cope with. They did seem to have a very strange concept of time, as their idea of 10 mins lasted at least 20 minutes by our reckoning. Apart from the noise it was a very good meeting. 28 members were present and we also had 6 visitors, one of whom took away paperwork to join us as a dual member. Hopefully we tempted at least some of the others to think about joining in the future as well. There was a lot of business to get through including details of our upcoming Christmas Meal, which proved to be very popular, so much so that we ended up closing applications as the venue would have surpassed their maximum capacity. We are going to need a bigger venue next year!

This month's speaker was Joy Taylor who fascinated us all with details of what an Anchoress was, as well as showing us sites, and possible sites, of Anchor Holes around Norwich. We all learnt something new, even those who count Norwich as their home city. At least one member knew a bit about Julian of Norwich (she attended the High School not far from where she was 'holed up' and where a school building is named after her), but even she had no idea on the number of individuals who thought it was a good idea to shut themselves away, let alone where the 'holes' were in Norwich.

Wednesday 25th October saw some of our members venturing into Norwich to the Theatre Royal for the Full Monty show. From what the attendees have said they really enjoyed the show however, there was apparently some disappointment with the end of the show (no idea why but, they were expecting to see a little more!!!).

Finally, Friday 27th October was our third Bingo Afternoon where we all 'suffered' the mad bingo caller (OK so the caller didn't suffer, just everyone else). Once again things did not quite go to plan (yes we were locked out again, with the added bonus of no electricity in the meter). The Town Hall doors clearly have something against the WI. As during her recent trip to the Norfolk Archive Centre our secretary discovered that something similar had happened to the original Stalham WI for their 50th Birthday Celebration! Thankfully we now have our own key. Once inside everything went really well, the caller has improved, the cakes were excellent (thank you to the members who supplied them) and thank you also to the kitchen helpers who made sure everyone was supplied with hot drinks. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, and we raised over £150 for our funds.

Next month we will be celebrating our second birthday for which we have invited some of the members from other local WIs. It will be our first real chance to showcase The Stalham Broads WI to a wider WI audience hopefully things will go to plan (at least we know we won't be locked out this time, we have a key and we aren't afraid to use it).