

With the Stalham President away on a long awaited cruise, it was left for one of the other Committee members to step into the breach and take charge of the meeting. Last time the President was away the Secretary stepped in (the committee have learnt from that experience clearly) and this time Irene Sheehan took control.

We've learnt that January can be a bit of a hit or miss kind of meeting depending on how many members turn up, and this month 21 members (including a new member) attended. What wasn't expected was the number of visitors who turned up. Normally we would see two or three but when nine new faces appeared it was a little bit of a shock, although a pleasant one, to say the least (clearly the Facebook has it's uses). Hopefully some of them will return and join us in the next few months. We enjoy making new friends, and since our formation back in 2019 we have seen the membership almost double so fingers crossed.

The WI business is normally the first thing dealt with, so that our President and Secretary can relax a little however, with the President away it was decided to switch the meeting around a little, so we had the speaker first for a change. Our speaker this month was Mr Neil Hunt a past president of The National Association of Toastmasters, who lives locally to Stalham. He enlightened us all on the role and duties of a Toastmaster at dinners and functions within the City of London and elsewhere, and a few more stories (of which there must be many) of his time as a Toastmaster. Although some members have heard him speak before, he did not disappoint and brought a smile to all. The story about a certain member of the Royal Family was particularly funny, as was the mishap involving a presentation at a Hindu celebration. After the speaker there was a refreshment break, which gave the members the chance to catch up on news from the Christmas period and, a chance for the committee to meet with and talk to the visitors. Finally it was time for the business which was related to the two upcoming Annual Meetings, Federation activities and the Resolutions Vote for this year.

The rest of January has been quiet with only the three sub groups meeting. The book group met on the 9th January and continues to do well, as does Coffee Cups and Flower Pots which met at the North Walsham Garden Centre on the 26th January. The newest sub group the Games group also met up on the 25th January at one of our member's homes.

Next month is our Annual Meeting when we will find out who the next President will be. Rosemarie our current President has decided to stand down from the role after two years, during which time we have seen the group grow and stabilise itself. We will also find out if the Secretary has managed to write a suitable Annual Report reflecting the last 12 months, (the committee are hoping they only see the one final draft this year and not 'millions of final drafts' like last time) and the financial report. The secretary probably also has a surprise planned but of course she isn't revealing anything as normal.