

June's Report From The Stalham Broads

June seems to have gone on forever this year, whether it has been down to the lack of highlights relating to activities or down to the oppressive temperatures towards the end of the month it is not known, but it is safe to say July should prove to be more engaging.

On the 4th June the National Federation's Annual Meeting took place, something which in the past has given our members the opportunity to meet up with members from beyond the Norfolk borders. However, with a change to only having a live face to face meeting every three years this opportunity has been sorely missed. This year our secretary volunteered to be a link delegate so attended the screening at Evelyn Suffield House. As link delegate not only did she need to attend the 'meeting', but also had to vote on several things on behalf of the four WIs in the linking group, as well as prepare a report for those WIs after the event (good job report writing is one of her better skills). Next year however, it will be a face to face meeting in the city of Hull.

At our monthly meeting on the 8th June we welcomed Katie Newman whos normal day to day job is in the local printers but her 'hobby' is much more interesting. She is a producer for Radio Caroline (yes that formerly illegal radio station which was based offshore). Her talk was on the history of the Station from its humble beginnings, as a small very local independent rogue station, to its current niche position as a now licensed legal station. Backed up with both recorded transmissions and slides the history came very much to life with the issues of water born hazards including at least one sinking during transmission, storms which knocked out transmitting equipment and an illegal raid by the authorities. A fascinating talk from someone who's whole family was involved with the radio station from its humble beginnings.

As mentioned last month we've had a review of our sub-groups. Our book group has now closed and it has now also been decided to close the Flower Pots and Coffee Cups group. Both groups will be missed, but as the book group had no co-ordinator and a lack of attendees at the Coffee Cup meetings it had become nonviable. Our three other sub-groups continue to thrive, the crafters have been working on items for an upcoming sale in June, the gaming group continues to be well attended and the walkers decided it was too hot to do a long walk this month so they just did a short 30 minute stroll to a nearby cafe for a natter.

Finally, on the 30th June five members ventured into Norwich and attended one of the Shoebox Experience tours at Carrow House, the former home of the Colman's Mustard family. Thankfully the temperature had dropped a couple of degrees so it was comfortable even in the glass orangery. The tour was packed full of information on the Colman family and the mustard business and it was enjoyed by all, even talk of zombie spiders didn't put a damper on the visits to the cellars, although the ceilings were inspected to ensure there were no spiders present.