

After our unorthodox Annual Meeting last month (only we could have both the current President and the only nomination for future President being ill on the day of the meeting), our March meeting had to start with the handover of our Harnser mascot from Rosemarie Murphy to Irene Sheehan. Rosemarie has been president for two years having taken over in January 2022 shortly after the group's formation. Our secretary may have added one or two asides, and the odd lie to the speech, so no surprises there of course. It must be noted however, that Rosemarie gave as good, if not better back. Naturally we couldn't let her stand down without thank you gifts, a card, certificate of appreciation, and a gift voucher were the official gifts but there was one final surprise. Since September, and as a result of viewing some of the archive records of the former Stalham WI, there has been a little bit of banter regarding handbags as thank gifts. This has been between Rosemarie and Paula, our Secretary, and to be more specific, designer handbag requests from Rosemarie. Well there was a handbag and it was unique, but it was about 2 cm high, 4cm long, 1 cm wide and made of polymer clay. Proof that where our Secretary is concerned there is always likely to be some sort of surprise, whilst trying to outwit her is going to fail 99.9% of the time.

With the handover out of the way Irene chaired her first meeting as President. There were a few niggles to be ironed out, but doing that will all come with experience. The meeting itself consisted of a presentation by Patty Harris on the Spalding Gentlemen's Society Museum which is the second oldest surviving antiquarian society in the UK. She detailed the Society's history from its formation in 1710, through to the present day and how the various articles on display came into the possession of the Society.

March's meeting was particularly busy, but one week later it was the Norfolk Federation's Annual Meeting. Seven members of the WI took a trip into Norwich, tickets in hand, to join others in finding out how our Federation had fared over the past year. They made the most of the day, going out for lunch at the Assembly Rooms and this year, thankfully, they remembered to collect our delegate on the way out (unlike last year when both the President and Delegate were forgotten). There were a few more members attending the meeting - two of our dual members were manning Federation Stalls, while one of our full members was a Federation Steward who may have been trying to be better behaved than normal, but possibly not much better it must be said. Janet Street Porter as the afternoon speaker was an inspiration. True she isn't to everyone's taste but everyone seemed to enjoy what she had to say. We mustn't forget that The Stalham Broads was also due to collect our first award as a WI. It had been decided that Rosemarie would go up on stage to represent us on the day considering her not insignificant contribution to The Stalham Broads WI over her two years as President. In typical Stalham fashion there was a problem, somehow all the Advisers Accolades had disappeared, which is not really surprising considering our reputation for things not going to plan. They will no doubt turn up at some point.

Finally on the 23rd March six of our members and two partners travelled the short distance to Acle to take part in the Acle WI Spring Quiz. We may not have won but we didn't come last either which is more important, but we did enjoy the evening. All in all it was a busy month and some of us are looking forward to a break over Easter.