

June began in true Stalham Broads fashion with our secretary once again having to find an alternative venue for our monthly meeting (we were, to be honest, expecting a delay, Norfolk contractors and local councils seem to run on a different timeline to the rest of us). However, Stalham is lucky to have several venues we could use so we were able to decamp once again to the Baptist Church School room for the meeting.

Prior to our meeting, there was the matter of the National AGM in London, which 5 of our members attended (three full members and two duals) in person and another member watched the virtual screening whilst knitting poppies in preparation for our Remembrance display in November. The attendees all came away saying it had been an amazing experience with some excellent speakers, helped most probably by the event being held in the Albert Hall.

The day after the AGM was the 80th Anniversary of D Day and once again we played our part in the town's celebrations. Some of our poppies from our growing stash (hardly surprising when we are nagged about making more every year) were borrowed by the local council for their display at The Poppy Centre, and in the church yard where the town's beacon and laying of peace lanterns was to take place. Our President Irene and our Secretary Paula somehow managed to get introduced to the High Sheriff of Norfolk who was one of several VIPs - we had the local MP and the leader of North Norfolk District Council as well attending the event. Irene then laid a lantern on behalf of the women who both served in the various uniformed services and supported the war effort on the home front.

The speaker at our meeting this month was Professor Alison Goodrum who gave us a talk on her role as a milliner, and demonstrated some of the techniques and materials she uses. This was admittedly not the planned talk (it was supposed to be the history of hat making with all the gruesome details relating to the chemicals used) and this was due partly to not knowing what equipment was available in the alternative venue, then not having the right lead to connect a laptop to the projector. The talk was very interesting and provoked several questions on the various techniques and materials used. The hats themselves were much admired and several were even tried on. We will be looking at rearranging the History talk for a later date.

Finally, we have now set up our fifth sub-group with the creation of a craft group. Hopefully it will prove to be just as successful as our other groups. The group itself won't be geared to one type of craft per session, although this may happen from time to time, but will mainly concentrate on the more social aspect and creating for fundraisers. The first meeting was full of crafting and chat with pompom making, knitting, poppy making and one individual being shown how to needle felt (no injuries occurred) a little robin and a Christmas pudding which will be turned into tree decorations at some point. The attendees all enjoyed the afternoon and cannot wait to see what the next session will involve.

July also looks to be a fun filled month with members heading over to Peter Beales Roses on the 3rd July, our monthly meeting on 10th July when Wally Webb is our speaker (hopefully we will finally be back in the town hall) and our first big fundraiser of the year one of our ever popular Bingo Afternoons on the 25th July.