

The Stalham Broads WI

The last twelve months seem to have flown by and it feels like it was only yesterday that we celebrated our third birthday as a WI. However, clearly it wasn't yesterday, as we are now about to start our fourth year. With the final renovation work going on in the Town Hall where we usually meet, we once more decamped. This time we made use of the facilities available in The Poppy Centre next to the Recreation ground.

This year the event went without any major hitch, both members and invited guests found the location, placing one of our roller banners at the end of Recreation Road may have helped. Those banners have been worth their weight in gold since we got them. After the usual news and notices given by our President Irene and our Secretary Paula it was time to settle down to listen to the speaker for the morning, Cheryl Cade.

Cheryl is a qualified cheese, beer, gin and apparently sausage roll expert, who is also an International Judge for the world drinks awards and the Guild of Fine Food. Her talk was on all things cheese related. She started by explaining a little bit about herself before giving a talk, which was both entertaining and informative. Who would have thought you could make cheese with platypus milk let alone that it would be pink if you did (there was none available for tasting it must be added). We also learnt how to store cheese effectively, and how the taste can be affected by what it is paired with (including a couple of taster samples - the Wensleydale with stem ginger soaked in whisky was delicious by the way. Rosemarie our speaker liaison has once again done a top notch job with the speaker selection, unfortunately she has decided to stand down from the role at the annual meeting so it is hoped the rest of the committee can continue her good work going forward.

Once the talk was over and the various questions answered it was time for refreshments in the form of take away lunchboxes (we found that not only did these go down very well with attendees last year, they save food waste when compared with a buffet), social time and time to cut the cake prepared by our own Anne Bolton, who decorated it perfectly with the Stalham Broads Logo and WI coloured flowers in purple, white and green. Unlike in previous years there was thankfully enough cake for all and indeed there was one piece left. The raffle was also drawn, with several guests leaving the meeting with prizes. Then it was time to say goodbye to our guests who it is hoped enjoyed the meeting, and the chance to celebrate with us.