

## February Monthly Update

February started with a group of six of us heading down south to the Capital, for a Federation arranged visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A). It was a seriously long day (next time our secretary has promised to try to get us on the more direct coach and not one that went the scenic route via Ely). Despite that, everyone enjoyed themselves, and it gave us a chance to meet up with other Norfolk WI members and visit a location which is a bit further than the normal outings. Some had never visited the V&A and were prepared to walk round the corner to go and play on the earthquake simulator in the Natural History Museum for a few hours instead. The back up plan wasn't however used, as the V&A proved to have more than enough to amuse even our most hardened anti-Arts individual. The time in the museum was not really long enough to see everything fully, and the group spilt up several times, or maybe it was really that we kept losing each other in the numerous rooms and floors. However, the time came to meet the coach for the return journey which was less scenic as it was dark. Everyone had at least found something of interest (the jewellery displays were definitely admired but the cost of a coffee less so) during the day.

Of course, February is also our Annual Meeting month which is a chance to reflect on some of the things that have happened over the previous year. Normally our President would be in charge of the running order but a phone call the day before the meeting to our secretary, and an email from the committee member who was willing to take over the President role, meant we had an annual meeting with a difference.

Since our formation The Stalham Broads WI has had to face so many challenges, so to end up with the two key individuals being ill at the same time was hardly surprising. Luckily, we are blessed with a committee who work well as a unit, and to be honest anyone of them could take charge if needed but, at such short notice the two remaining officers stepped up and worked something out between themselves, or maybe that should be the Treasurer offered her WI knowledge to assist the Secretary to run the meeting. The Secretary (apparently the more confident speaker of the two) therefore ended up hosting the meeting, reading out the Annual Report and the President's comments (they had been emailed prior to the meeting) with the addition of prompts from both our WI Adviser (luckily, we had invited her to attend) and the Treasurer about what to do and when. We successfully voted to increase the size of the committee by two (that saved a secret ballot for the committee taking place), agree the new committee which includes the two absent members and, vote in the new President in her absence. So all the elements required were achieved all be it in a somewhat unorthodox matter.

Our official handover of the President role will take place now in March, and the Secretary will need to arrange for the now former President to sign the paperwork sometime. With our second Annual Meeting completed, The Stalham Broads have once more overcome yet another challenge successfully, and it has become very apparent over the last two years that the groups unofficial motto should be "Est aliquid cruentum semper"