

January, the month when we all have the option to make changes and have new beginnings. This month we welcomed four visitors to our meeting, hopefully they liked what they saw and will make a choice to join us in becoming WI members.

Our speaker this month gave us a very informative and interesting talk on The Cinnamon Trust, a little known but nationwide charity, which gives elderly and terminally ill pet owners the peace of mind that their beloved animals will be looked after should something happen. We learnt how the speaker and his partner came to find out about the charity, what the charity offers and the story of how Sam the dog (also in attendance) came to be part of the Cinnamon Trust fostering system. As many of our members are pet owners themselves it was reassuring to find out that there is someone out there who will look after our pets should the worst happen. Some members even contacted family members with the details of the trust's work after the meeting. All that is required of the pet owner is to register with the trust and have a small notice in clear view in their home.

With the talk ending, our usual refreshment and chat session took place where members took the opportunity to catch up on the festive season and to make a massive fuss of Sam (to be fair he was as much a highlight of the tea break as the gossiping). It was a meeting that hopefully bodes well for the forthcoming year (let's hope so, as we could do with a year without too many challenges).

Our five sub groups also started the new year well - the book group held a new year lunch and delayed secret santa style book exchange, in The Swan Inn here in Stalham, a smaller than usual craft group worked on making green hearts for this year's 'show the love' campaign, Flower Pots and Coffee Cups, our take on a coffee and chat group, went to Sprowston Garden Centre for their meeting, the games group were as usual playing boardgames, whilst our walking group continued their winter programme of walks in Norwich. This month they took a meandering route from Tombland to Surrey Street via Elm Hill, several shops, and the Aviva entrance hall with additional historical comments and ghostly information from our unofficial city guide.