

It seems like Spring has finally arrived with the morning welcoming us to the meeting with bright sunshine and warmer temperatures than the last two meetings. Although there were slightly fewer members present mainly due to illness, the addition of 5 visitors more than made up for the shortfall, some of whom hopefully will join the WI in the near future.

Our President opened the meeting early (ok it was only one minute early as everyone who was going to arrive had done so) welcoming all, before moving swiftly on giving details of the fundraisers/social being planned for 2025 and any further notices to members. Our secretary then updated the members on the recent Resolution vote confirming that the resolution going forward for consideration at the 2025 National Annual General Meeting will be the 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' option. Members were also informed of the new events and activities being put on by the Norfolk Federation. We like to keep the business to a minimum where possible.

This month's speaker was Simon White formerly a member of Peter Beales Roses based in Attleborough. Simon has spent all his working life with the company and has extensive knowledge not just of the company and its founder but, also of roses in general. He started his talk with a bit of background into the company and how Peter Beales actual became involved with roses, and indeed horticulture in general, before discussing the various types of roses (it is surprising how many different types there are), and the main characteristics of each type. He had also brought a selection of plants (not just roses it must be said) and some extra gardening items which members were able to purchase, both before the meeting opened and during the refreshment break, from which Simon kindly donated 10% of the takings. It was very clear that Simon enjoyed his work and also takes great pride in talking not just about plants (especially roses) but also about the Beales family and the business itself.

Away from the meeting, nine of our full members (seven observers, a delegate and a steward) attended this year's Federation Annual Meeting in Norwich, and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Our sub-groups continue to thrive, the 'coffee and chat' group aka Coffee Cups and Flower Pots met at the Meales Farm shop and Garden Centre for their usual monthly light lunch, the walkers are now back on their summer walk programme much to the relief of Paula (however, she is now in the middle of planning a walking event for federation and looking for interesting routes in Norwich for next Winter), taking to the local paths towards the neighbouring village of Sutton. Our Craft Group continues to create items for our planned August Craft Sale, although they were a bit thin on the ground for one reason or another, the gamers also met up to play games.. All in all it has been a very busy and interesting March.