

It looks like October will now be the month that The Stalham Broads celebrates our formation, seeing as there is no way we were going to be holding an Annual Meeting and a Birthday Meeting on the same day, let alone the same month. For one, the committee probably wouldn't survive the stress, and secondly we can't possibly inflict our current secretary's report on our unsuspecting guests.

The day of the meeting (which incidentally was dated incorrectly in the newsletter - the secretary says she was checking that someone reads it) dawned to what was a dull and damp start, which didn't bode well. It usually means something was bound to go wrong. It did! The committee had arrived earlier than normal to set up only to find out that the door key no longer worked, yep the Council had changed the locks and forgotten to tell us (maybe they didn't forget and did it deliberately who knows), but it's a good job someone had the mobile number for the town clerk, and that the clerk was in the building at the time. With access gained and a new key issued it was time to start getting the hall prepared - that bit did actually go to plan. The tables were set out with table cloths, flowers and visitor placement cards, the snack boxes were filled and the cakes were admired in the kitchen.

Everything was going to plan, the business was dealt with in record time, and so it was on to the speaker. Ruth Smith didn't disappoint with her tales of growing up in the 1940's, some of her tales raised a laugh, the older members of the audience nodded sagely at some of their own memories of growing up, while the younger generations were fascinated by the scrapes Ruth got into. With the entertainment finished, it was time for the committee (less Irene our President who got the job of going round talking to all the visitors) to carry out what has become a Stalham birthday tradition of providing refreshments to both guests and members.

At this point it was suddenly discovered that there was no milk, in the confusion of being locked out our secretary hadn't got any earlier. So, while the others got their table orders ready the guilty party had to rush to get some from across the road, and luckily no one noticed the delay. The raffle was drawn whilst everyone chatted, then it was time to cut the cakes, and yes, we had two cakes again this year. What hadn't been taken into account was the increase in attendees from our last birthday meeting or the fact that the knife was a little lacking which led to a shortage of cake, or should that be that we just ran out of cake!!!

Despite being locked out, having no milk and running out of cake, the morning was deemed a success, the guests all commented on how welcome they were made (something we take pride in as a WI) and how much they enjoyed the speaker.

Away from the meeting our sub-groups have all been busy, the craft group have been making items for both our festive tree (there has been a tooth fairy production line) and making items for a craft sale. The games group had another enjoyable afternoon of games and chat, as usual the Coffee Cups and Flower Pots group visited a local garden centre for a light lunch and 'shopping', the book group is still on the lookout for new members and with the approach of the winter, our walking group has moved on to a winter programme with the first of a series of walks in Norwich. This was led by our Norwich born member not only leading the walk, but providing a little bit of history and some amusing anecdotes on the way, as they walked from Upper Kings Street to Riverside and around back via Tombland and the Cathedral.

Next month is the annual meeting but before that there is a small matter of a quiz night, and putting up the display of little red and purple poppies which someone insists are added too each year, apparently you can never have too many poppies.