

Stalham Farmers' Club Report

Vera's Coffee House, Wayford Nurseries

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

At the final meeting of the year, the chairman, Henry Alston welcomed about 30 members and guests including the speaker, Judith Ellis.

Earlier, there had been 16 for supper, which had been much enjoyed. The brief formal business meeting started at 7.40pm

Apologies – Nigel Wright, Sally Lomax, Jason Cantrill, Roy Houlden, Paul Corfield, Louis Baugh, David Moar, Christopher Deane, Ian and Jo Willets.

Minutes – A report of the previous meeting on November 14 had been on the club's website for the past month.

New members – Junko Wright, Ian Spinks and Nick Collier were all proposed, seconded and agreed.

This became rather a family affair as a former chairman, Alistair Wright proposed his wife, Junko. And then Andrew Spinks nominated his father, Ian, who has been a former member, to join the club. Finally, our former chairman, nominated Nick Collier.

Secretary's report – Michael Pollitt invited members and guests to support the forthcoming bowls/ 10-pin match against Holt & District Farmers' Club on Friday, February 22 at Rossi's, North Walsham. For the first time in seven years, it has been necessary to increase the price for bowls/ three course supper to £25.

He also reported that Jake Fiennes, who spoke so well at last month's meeting, had been presented with a copy of "Birds of Norfolk" on behalf of the club.

Entries for the grain competition would be collected from Sands Sprayers and taken to Adams & Howling for judging. A number of entries had been received.

Guest speaker – Mr Alston introduced retired veterinary surgeon turned local author and award-winning bookbinder, Judith Ellis. She had taken up the technical challenge of booking binding and has since won several national awards.

She explained that her fascination with Norfolk's coast and history had been prompted by a brief visit to King's Lynn some years ago. While wandering through the town, she had been struck by the architecture and heritage features of the old town. She decided to return and became "hooked" by the maritime heritage and with her sketchbook recorded her visit. Subsequently, she had visited Great Yarmouth and eventually she visited all the other coastal towns and communities. With all this information, she thought about producing a small volume of her sketches and her notes, which led to the publication in 2017 of "Two Points East: A View of Maritime Norfolk." (Members snapped the last five of the 1,000 copies of the first edition; a second printing arrives this week.)

And having been a keen sailor, a diversion into Suffolk followed, which led to her second book, "Curlew Coast: Diversions on Maritime Suffolk." Incidentally, she strongly recommended visiting Ipswich and especially, its rich heritage of 16th/17th century houses.

Her enthusiasm and love of bookbinding was quite evident. And members queued for a little early Christmas shopping. She was thanked by John Grier, who recalled that they had first met when calving a cow in the early 1970s.

Mr Alston wished members and guests a happy Christmas and New Year. The meeting closed at 8.40pm.