

President's report for 2024 Annual Meeting

Can't believe I've been in post for a year, it has just flown by!

It wasn't until I started to write my report that I realised how much we've done this year.

Firstly, I want to thank the committee for all their hard work over the past year, without them we wouldn't be the successful group that we are.

My next thank you is to all of you, for the effort you have put in to raise funds for not only our group, but also our chosen charity for the year, The Merle Boddy Centre. Without the fund raising we wouldn't be able to have the excellent speakers that Beth has organised for the coming year.

I also want to thank you for supporting me through my first year. Your words of encouragement have been deeply appreciated.

Now I want to talk briefly about some of the highlights for me of this past year.

The most memorable event for me was our production of Lady Ruby's Riches. The whole thing from start to finish was incredible! The comradery, spirit and support shown by everyone involved was amazing. All of the rehearsals were spent in fits of laughter and discovering talents we didn't know we had.

The performance itself will long live in my memory, and I still cannot believe that we had a full house and raised so much money for the Merle Boddy Centre. Perhaps Lady Ruby will appear again sometime!!!

I have also greatly enjoyed our walks. It all started with the Women Walk the World walk back in April, when a group of us did a 2.5 mile walk around the village. Everyone enjoyed it so much, that we made it a monthly event. We have walked in Castle Acre, Holme Hale, Lynford Arboretum and Swaffham.

What I liked the most, was the opportunity to talk to people I don't normally get the chance to. We will definitely be carrying on with them this year, so if you have a favourite walk, please let me know.

We also introduced 'bring your own mug' to the monthly meetings. I have to confess, it did take 2 or 3 months for me to remember mine, but I think we are now all in the swing of it!

Our speakers have all been of a very high quality, and I found it hard to decide which was my favourite, but I do have to say, Angela's daughter-in-law, Sarah Bunn, talking about the charity BREAK, really did resonate with me, and I hadn't fully realised the extent of their work until she spoke to us.

Looking at this years list, I think we are once again, in for some interesting topics.

On the whole, the weather has been kind to us. Although there was some rain during the open garden visit, the cake soon counteracted it!

The rain also very kindly waited until we were inside on the mystery tour, and although we did have to move inside Houghton Church for our meeting, it did not spoil the afternoon.

The year was then rounded off with the Christmas party, which once again , was a fantastic afternoon of jollity and good fun.

Finally, I want to wish you all well for the coming year, and I look forward to, hopefully, making it another fun one!