

GREAT MOOR & DISTRICT WI NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014

NEWS AND UPDATE ON EVENTS DURING THE LAST MONTH AND REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March meeting - 'The Guitar Man'**



At our March members' meeting, we were entertained by guitarist and raconteur, Neil Smith. He told us all about his career in music from Manchester in the 1960s to Italy, Japan and many other countries, including USSR where his former job for the MOD was of more interest to the authorities than his guitar playing! He also played us a number of extracts from a variety of pieces in his musical repertoire.

- **Coffee afternoons for April and May**

Do come along for a coffee/tea, chat, and maybe a bite to eat, at either or both of our popular coffee afternoons.

The next two coffee afternoons at the Funky Monkey in Davenport is Wed 21st May and Wed 18th June from 2.00pm. (Always the third Wed in the month).



At Coffee Culture in Hazel Grove, (opposite Asda Carpark), our next two afternoons are Fri 25th Apr and Fri 30th May from 2.30 pm. (Always the last Fri in the month).

- **Meals out**

On Friday 4th April, in our endeavour to savour the cultural delights of world cuisine and eat our way around the world, six members met at The Bangkok Orchid Restaurant in Hazel Grove.

The staff were very welcoming and attentive to all our needs. The restaurant is tastefully decorated and has an aura of tranquillity and calmness. The attention to detail continued as the food was served on authentic tableware. More importantly the food had a freshness about it, it was freshly cooked with well balanced flavours and it was evident that many of the ingredients were authentically sourced. Portions were also substantial.

Four ladies chose one of the set banquets which gave the opportunity to sample several different starters with a choice of dipping sauces. There were three main course dishes to sample served with two different styles of rice. The set menu ended with a fresh fruit selection platter. At £19.95 per person it was excellent value for money. The standard menu was compatibly priced to similar local Restaurants. Our next meal round the world will be on Fri May 2nd at Olivers in Woodford. Please sign the list if interested.

- **Lunch Club**

Seven ladies lunched at 'The Church Inn', a small 'gastropub' in Cheadle Hulme on 9th April. They have quite a large varied menu and in the end we all opted for something from the

lunch menu, which at the very reasonably priced £5.95, was certainly value for money.

Future Lunch Club dates for your diary

Friday 16 May at the Armenique, Gatley.
Please sign the list if interested.

- **Meals at the Davenport Tennis Club**

We were delighted that forty-six people attended the fundraising meal at the Davenport Lawn Tennis Club on 12th



April. A huge thank you must go to those members that cooked an excellent meal and all those who helped out on the day, to make it yet again a very successful evening. We raised around £250, a magnificent achievement.

Don't forget our 2nd fundraising meal is on 4th Oct, so make sure you have the date in your diaries.

- **Book Club**

'Water for Elephants' by Sara Gruen provoked lots of discussion on loyalty, old age, the changes in the circus. Also, what should come first - see the film or read the book? The overall score was 7.13 out of 10.

Our next book is 'Mornings in Jenin' by Susan Abulhawa which, due to the 1st Monday in May being a bank holiday, we will be reviewing on Apr 28th at 6.45pm, at the Shady Oak pub, Redford Drive, Bramhall, SK7 3PG.

- **Craft Group**

Our Easter chicks craft evening went down very well, and



everyone enjoyed making their Easter Rabbits and Chicks. It was nice to see so many of our members that do not normally get involved with the craft evenings coming along and having a go, and the feedback on the night and also at the last WI meeting was that they really enjoyed it. That's what it all about learning new skills but also enjoying it too!



Future Craft dates for your diary

Tues 20th May - Napkin Folding
June - Cheshire Show - no meeting
Wed 16th July - Calligraphy

Please sign the list if interested.

- **Knit and Natter**

Our next two Knit and Natter sessions are on 14th May and 11th June. We'd love to see you all there as these are proving very popular evenings, as much for the nattering as for anything actually being produced! We meet every second Wed of the month at The Shady Oak, Redford Drive, Bramhall, SK7 3PG from 7:30pm onwards. Either turn up on the night or contact Trish H or Sue M for further details, help with getting there etc.



- **Weekend Walks**

Four ladies set off on Mother's day for a very enjoyable 'ramble round the runways'. Watching the planes was interesting, and it was decided to do this walk again later on in the summer as a number of people wanted to go but were unable to do so.

Future weekend walk dates for your diary

Sat April 26th, Visit to Buxton optional walk to Solomon's Temple'

We are hoping that this trip would interest members who might want to visit Buxton for the shops, cafes etc as well as walkers. The walk is a short but uphill walk from the Pavilion Gardens to Poole's Cavern, then up through Grin Low Woods to the landmark of Solomon's Temple, returning to the centre of Buxton by a different but downhill route. The walk should take 1.5 - 2hrs. The view from the top is well worth the climb!!!!

We could travel by train from Hazel Grove, Woodsmoor or Davenport or share cars. We can decide which when we know who is going.

Sun May 25th, Delamere Forset Visitor Centre and walk
Sat June 28th, Chester to walk round walls or shop

If you are interested in these walks please sign the lists at the meetings or contact Marjorie B or Lorna H.

- **Weekday Walks**

On Fri 11th April ten ladies set off from Prestbury car park, on



a five mile circular walk. After passing the hand-loom weavers' cottages and a number of well-maintained residences we followed the river Bollin, walking through meadows and mixed woodland where we could see that spring was very definitely on the way, before we crossed the river on a footbridge which eventually leads onto the busy golf course. Taking care not to disturb the many golfers and avoid stray golf balls we emerged from the course, unscathed!!! On the return leg we passed buildings



such as Legh Hall, the Old Hall - now restored - and many lovely buildings including a row of cottages formerly used by hand-loom weavers who used to walk to the silk mills of Macclesfield to collect the spun yarn. Arriving back in Prestbury, we headed in true WI fashion for a teashop where we all enjoyed a tea/coffee and some cake. We all agreed we had had a wonderful day.

Please have a look at the next walk, it's a great way to spend the afternoon.

Future weekday local walks dates for your diary

Tues May 13th Vernon Park

This walk of about 3.5 miles, starts and finishes in the car park near to the entrance to Pear mill, Lower Bredbury. Meet here at 1.30 pm. We are hoping that the cafe is open!!!

Fri 13th June Etherow Park
Tues July 8th Higher Poynton

Again if you are interested in these walks please sign the lists at the meetings or contact Marjorie B, or Lorna H.

- **Pub Quiz Team**

The Pub Quiz team are now regular attendees of the quiz at the 'Puss In Boots' and one Thursday in the last month they came 2nd their best ever result! Speak to Trish H if you are interested in joining them on Thursday evenings starting around 8.30 pm.

- **Bursaries**

The committee has finalised arrangements for the 2014 Members' bursaries. You should have received an e-mail confirming your choice, or, if you have not yet made it, a request to let Trish know your preference at the next meeting, or you can e-mail Trish H.

- **Cinema/Theatre group**

We have a very busy Cinema/Theatre group and as you can see from the list of trips that have already been booked below, sometimes have to book tickets very quickly, and quite a long time in advance. So to avoid disappointment, if you wish to be included and receive information about what's being planned then please e-mail Alia to add your name to the cinema/theatre group list.

'The Mouse Trap'

Some of us are now members of the exclusive group of people who know "whodunnit" in Agatha Christie's play, The Mousetrap, which was on at the Lowry Theatre. However, we have been sworn to secrecy! The play takes place in an old country house and we all agreed that the set was wonderful. There was also quite a lot of humour in the script, which we didn't really expect. The cast were excellent all playing well written characters. It has to be said, though, that you could drive a double-decker bus through the holes in the plot! Actually, make that two double-decker buses - side by side!

'Dirty Dusting'

What a treat we all had at the Stockport Plaza when we went to see "Dirty Dusting"! Having had no particular expectations, this hilarious comedy had us all doubled up with laughter. The play was about three elderly cleaners, faced with the sack, who decide they can make some money setting up an adult chat line. Cue some very funny dialogue, full of double entendres, which was delivered joyously and with great skill by the excellent cast. A couple of musical numbers had us rolling in the aisles and I doubt we shall ever forget the huge, bright orange carrot. Those of you who were there know what I mean; the rest of you - just use your imagination!

'Robin Ince'

Three ladies were treated to a frenetic evening of fun by stand-up comedian and impressionist Robin Ince. He was trying to deliver a quasi-lecture on the wonderful organ that is the human brain, but found he couldn't contain his enthusiasm and went rapidly off on a tangent. He skimmed the surface of several brain-related topics such as male group behaviour and whether animals can recognise their reflection in a mirror. It is quite an art to pose such philosophical questions as "Is free will an illusion?" and tell

anecdotes about conversations with famous physicists AND make them amusing. However, despite the fact that this all sounds terribly high brow, the humour was certainly present in abundance and the audience enjoyed the evening. The whole delivery was so full of zest and fervour that Robin appeared as though he was on the cusp of a nervous breakdown. We came away feeling quite exhausted as well but having laughed a lot and had our thoughts provoked!

'Winter's Tale'

Plays by Shakespeare are always difficult to perform, particularly for an amateur company, but the Stockport Garrick did a very good job when members went to see their production of *The Winter's Tale*. This particular play is a mixture of comedy and tragedy, which adds an extra element of complexity, but most of the actors coped well with putting across the rather complicated language. Highlights were provided by some excellent comic turns, including a very large stuffed grizzly bear with flashing eyes that was wheeled on stage to fulfil the stage direction "exit, pursued by a bear"!

The costumes were slightly confusing though, as they ranged from Elizabethan style, through modern suits to 1920's flapper - with a few other assorted styles thrown in for good measure!

Already booked

'King Lear', 1st May

'Our House', 9th May

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time (NT encore)', 22nd May

'A Small Family Business', 12th June

'Happy Days', 26th or 27th June

'Jersey Boys', 29th September

'Alan Davis', 31st October

Future Options

'Henry IV part 1' – Didsbury 14th May

'Pack of Lies' – Carver Marple 15th May

'Grumpy Old Women' - The Lowry 17th May

'On Golden Pond' – The Garrick 21st May

'It could be anyone of us' – Poynton 22nd May

'Miles Jupp' - The Lowry 26th May

'Henry IV part 2' - Didsbury 18th June

'My Boy Jack' – The Garrick 25th June

'Two Men of Verona' – Didsbury 3rd September

'Opera Live' from New York being considered

'Showboat' being considered

Royal Exchange may have some performances of interest

Further details available on the website

Please let Alia know if you are interested in going to any of these by email, or at the next members' meeting by signing the relevant sheet.

Please remember that anyone in the group can instigate a cinema/theatre visit by emailing the group with a suggested film/play, date and time. Other members who would like to join you should reply direct, and a trip organised.

For those members that are interested but are not free to go at the proposed time, then if you 'reply to all' saying you are interested but prefer another time, then you could liaise with others in a similar position.

If interested in any of the events, please sign the relevant sheet at the next meeting.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF W I (NFWI)

MOODLE ACCESS

If members would like access to the WI moodle site, you need to contact Anne S and she'll add you to the site

together with your email address. You should then receive your username and password within 24hrs.

Please see the NFWI April newsletter attached to the e-mail.

CHESHIRE FEDERATION OF W I'S (CFWI) UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/NEWS

The CFWI have a number of activities/events over the next few months that may be of interest to members.

• County Quiz 2014

Nicole, Alice, Judith and Gill competed in the County Quiz 2014 final on 4th April. They did really well, and at the end had the 4th highest score of 63, with the top mark being 67, so you can see it was a very close competition. Many many congratulations ladies.

• County Walk 14th May

Neston Riverside are doing a 5/6 circular walk from Parkgate. To reserve a place contact Lyn Worrall
lyneorrsll@btinternet.com 0151 336 8744 from 3rd May.

• Lace Fair Plus 17th May

The 30th Anniversary of North Cheshire Lacemakers Group, Lace Fair *Plus* takes place on Sat 17th May from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, at Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 7QN. There will be suppliers, demonstration, exhibitions and refreshments. The admission cost is £2.00. See Lorna for details.

• New Members meetings 8th and 22nd May

New Members meetings are taking place at WI House, Chester, on Thur 8th May, 10.00 for 10.30 am, and Thur 22nd May, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. All are welcome to go and see WI House, have coffee and meet other members. See Lorna for details.

• Eaton Hall Gardens Open Day 20th April

As well as 88 acres of gardens and a 400 ft Camellia walk, this charity open day has many other attractions and displays. The gates are open from 10.30am - 5.00 pm, and the entry cost is £6.00 for Adults, £1.50 for children.

• NFWI Annual General Meeting 7th June

The NFWI Annual General meeting is being held on 7th June in Leeds

• Cheshire Show 17th and 18th June

If you would like to buy tickets in advance you can get a special offer on the price. Advance prices are:-
Adult £15.00 (£17.00 at the gate) Senior citizen £12.00 (£14.00 at the gate) Child £7.00 (£8.00) under 5's free.
Please see Lorna to book your tickets.

• Cheshire resolutions

If we wish to submit a CFWI resolution to be considered for inclusion on the Agenda for the Cheshire Annual Council Meeting in March 2015, suggestions are needed by 7th July 2014. Please see Lorna for further details.

NORTH EAST CHESHIRE GROUP (NECG)

• NECG Spring Meeting

Five members attended the Spring meeting of the NECG at Woodford Community Centre where we were entertained by opera singer, Claire O'Neil. She told us about her training and career in opera and also sang some songs. Her voice was amazingly strong. We bravely performed the rap that members had written together, it was very well received. In the words of Judith M, we "think we got the biggest clap"! It certainly prompted a lot of smiles and the speaker, Claire,

asked for a copy which she said she was going to use in future talks! Knew we should have taken out a copyright!

- **NECG Spring Walk 14th May**

Some of our members are taking part in the NECG 'Spring walk' on Wed 14th May. The walk starts and ends at Prestbury main car park, with lunch at the Boars Head afterwards. If you would like to join us please contact Toni for further information.

- **NECG Summer Fashion Show 9th June**

This takes place on Monday 9th June at Woodford Community Centre, SK7 1PS with a drinks reception at 7.30 pm. The fashion show is presented by 'FIZZ' of Wilmslow, Hyde, Ashton and Shaw. This is a 'ticket only' event so if you wish to attend please get your tickets - cost £5.00 - from Toni E.

- **NECG Summer Outing Wed 16th July**

This year the trip is to Skipton, please contact Toni for further information.

Future NECG dates/event for your diary

Trip out – Nov 12th – destination TBA

Summer walk – 24th July

Carol Service – 9th December

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tues April 22nd at the Hazel Grove Civic Hall. The title for this month's meeting is the 'That Certain Age' by Gay Rhodes

Many thanks ladies, as it was noticed that talking during the presentations from our guest speakers, and when other members are giving out information was greatly reduced. However, can we again, politely remind members not to chat to others while speakers are talking and keep their social chatting until the tea and cake social at the end of the meeting. Many thanks.

All members and visitors can sign in from 7.15 pm, for a prompt 7.30 pm start. If possible could the greeters try and arrive early (i.e. before 7.15 pm) to welcome all new visitors/members.

NEXT THREE MONTH'S PROGRAMME FOR 2014

May 27th Resolutions - Charity Vote

June 24th An evening of gardening

July 22nd Bees and Beekeeping

HOSTESS ROTA

April's hostesses are Jane W, Marjorie B, Nicole D and Trisha W. Please can the hostesses liaise to bring 4 pints of milk, tea towels and cake. (All costs will be reimbursed by Sue on production of a receipt). We still need hostesses for 2014, and would like everyone to have a go, –there is no obligation to bake - so if you can, please sign up on the hostesses' rota list at the next meeting.

TRADE TABLE

No Trading Table this month but we will continue to have a book sale and we ask members to bring along books to sell on the night, but also to take home any that are unsold by the end of the meeting. Prices for books will be 50p for paperbacks and £1.00 for hardbacks. The loose change collection box will always be available for donations.

NEW CHARITY

We need to think about the next charity we are going to be supporting. As in previous years we are asking members to put forward suggestions and be prepared to give a short speech in favour to us so we can vote in May.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

We have four members who celebrate their birthdays over the next month, so a very Happy Birthday to Christina M on 26th Apr, Trish H on 2nd M, Vera J on 7th May and Judith M on 10th May. We hope you all have a great day.

If you would to be included in our birthday wishes please put your birth date and month on the birthday list at the next meeting.

STOCKPORT FOODBANK

We continue to collect much needed donations for Stockport Foodbank. Why not ask your family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, community groups etc to help donate!..... Thank you.

RAFFLE

Ladies, if you have anything that we could use in our monthly raffle, then please bring the items along to the meeting and Mary Penny will be delighted to receive them. Many thanks.

WEBSITE

You can find our Great Moor and District WI at :- www.greatmooranddistrictwi.org.uk . You will find details of all of current, future and past activities. Please let us know if you would like to add or change anything.