

GREAT MOOR and DISTRICT WI NEWSLETTER JULY 2014

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

- **June meeting - 'Gardening'**

Our June Members' Meeting was slightly different from what we had planned as the speaker, who was going to do a 'gardeners' question time, was unable to come. Instead, Trish H set an excellent gardening quiz in which members competed in teams. For those who are not keen gardeners, there were also some questions about gardens in literature, songs and on TV. During refreshment time, members tried their hand at gardening Dingbats and anagrams.

- **Coffee afternoons for July and Aug**

The next two coffee afternoons at the Funky Monkey in Davenport are Wed 16th July and Wed 20th Aug 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 July and Fri 29th Aug from 2.30 pm. (Always the last Fri in the month).

- **Meals out**

For our "Round the world meal" in July, we visited Sasso's in Disley. The restaurant is a lovely modern setting, with a clean, fresh feel. It was very busy and obviously a popular venue. There was a very varied menu to choose from, with most people opting for starter and dessert. Everyone enjoyed what they ordered and Alia thoroughly enjoyed the glass of water that she had to wait half an hour to get!!!

The next meal round the world date and venue is to be decided.

- **Lunch Club**

The 'ladies who lunch' visited Norbury Farm in Hazel Grove for their July meal out. It has a warm, cosy feeling and the staff are helpful and friendly. We all enjoyed the food that we chose, as the clean plates attested! The one controversy was the baconless Quiche Lorraine which was replaced when they realised we had a genuine French lady with us!



Future Lunch Club dates for your diary

The next lunch club is at The Salt Bar, Macclesfield, Tuesday 12 August at 1.00pm

Please contact Judith W or sign the list if interested

Book Club

"Peaches for Monsieur Le Cure" by Joanne Harris the author of "Chocolat" was generally liked with few reservation, one thought it was a 'really good read'. It received 7.66 out of ten. Next month they are reading 'Stonemouth' by Iain Banks, which they will be reviewing on 4th Aug at 6.45pm, at the Shady Oak pub.

- **Craft Group**

There was no craft group in June as it was the Cheshire Show.

Sue T is going to teach us calligraphy on the Wed 16th July, and Wed 30th July at the Shady Oak pub, Redford Drive, Bramhall, SK7 3PG at 7.30. Wed 16th July is full, but there are still places available on 30th. Sue will be providing everything and there may be a small charge to cover costs.

Future Craft dates for your diary

Wed 20th Aug or Tues 2nd Sept - Bead Jewellery

Tue 16th Sept - 3D decoupage

Wed 22nd Oct - Xmas tree decorations

Please sign the list if interested.

- **Cheshire Show**

After 6 months of brain storming, planning, crafting, playing with layouts and panicking we finally took our 2 combined exhibits, along with some individual entries, to the Cheshire Show ground.

The organisers of the show (not the WI) had messed around with the traffic layout this year and as many of you will know it didn't work! I was stewarding on the Tuesday morning and was late as it took an hour and a half to do a half hour journey. The weather was kind for the 2 days and I think everyone who went enjoyed it, including those who kindly volunteered to help in one way or another in the WI tent.

As usual the standard was very high. With the combined exhibits each item is marked out of 20 and there are marks for interpretation of the given title and for how they are staged.

Class 2 was "Here Comes Summer". This a circular table which



has to be viewed in the round and we decided to do the end of the school term. Our exhibits were 2 Fairy cakes - 14/20; Calligraphy certificate - 15/20; Single bobbin lace flower - 20/20; Hand knitted apple core - 15/20. Staging 14/20 with Interpretation getting 13/20. Giving us a grand total of 91/120.

Congratulations to Lynda, Susan, and especially to Nicole for getting full marks for her Lace bobbin flower.

Class 4 was "Natures Palette". This exhibit is only viewed from



the front. We decided to depict Autumn. Our exhibits were a book with machine embroidered verse and lace 16 /20; Hand knitted fingerless gloves 18/20; Wet felted hat 18/20. Staging 9.5/10 with Interpretation 10/10 (full marks). Giving us a grand total of 71.5/80.

Congratulations to Gloria and Vera.

Thank you to all those mentioned above as well as Christina M for a multitude of things! and to Maddy F for school ties.

Individual entries for handicrafts were consistent with Ann L, Nicole D and Sue M all getting 17/20

Nicole for marmalade 15/20; which we then left in the rush to clear the exhibits at the end of the show!

Congratulation to Jane D who won 3rd prize for her painting with 17/20, and Sue Mann 14/20 for art.

If anyone is interested in getting involved by offering an unusual craft which we could make use of next year please contact Gloria M.

• **Trip to Abakhan**

On 25th June, five ladies made the journey to Abakhan in North Wales. Abakhan sells very reasonably priced fabric, haberdashery and craft items, together with wools. We went in one car sharing fuel cost and the journey took just over an hour. On arrival in true WI fashion we headed straight for the coffee shop.

The fabric section, selling furnishing and dress fabric was very large. The variety of fabrics was excellent and the haberdashery section comprehensive. We spent a considerable amount of time in this section making several attempts to leave but being drawn back by some essential purchase.

Next was a visit to the building where the wool was sold; this was almost overwhelming with the variety of different wools and the colours were just beautiful. The knit and natter group will be kept going for a while from the amount of wool bought.

After a good lunch we headed for the craft section which again was extensive and was described by one lady as 'dangerous' in its appeal.

Hopefully we will be repeating this trip again in the autumn.

• **Knit and Natter**

We meet 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.

Our next two Knit and Natter sessions are on Wed 13th Aug and Wed 10th Sept. (every second Wed of the month)

• **Breast drain carry bags**

The breast drain bags are used to accommodate a drain bottle for ladies who have had breast surgery due to cancer. We have circulated the pattern via e-mail, but it also is available for those that want one at the monthly meeting. If anyone has made any bags then please can you give them to Vera at the next meeting.

• **Games Night**

Our third Games Night is on Mon July 21st, so do join us, and learn a new game!!! They are fun evenings, competitive but social, and are held at The Shady Oak, every third Monday in the month at 7:30pm. Watch out for email reminders!

Future dates

18th August, 15th September, 20th Oct

• **Weekend Walks**

As we approached Chester city centre, we realised that we had chosen a race day for our visit. So as well as enjoying a 2m stroll around the walls, looking into interesting properties and their gardens, we watched in amazement as the race goers arrived



for the first race. Nobody seemed to be bothered about the drizzly rain and everyone was dressed up for the occasion. We watched the fashions and then the first race from our viewing point on the walls. Understanding the maths of betting could make it an educational option for the bursary next year! A great day out.

Future weekend walk dates for your diary

We have cancelled the walk on Sunday August 31st so that everyone can support the Fundraising tea, coffee and cakes at The Davenport Tennis Club. The walk planned for that day has been moved to Sunday July 27th and will start at Ashford -in-the-Water near Bakewell. There will be more news of our bike ride on the Monsal Trail at the July meeting. Hope you can join us.

Date tba for bike ride on the Monsal Trail

Sat 27th Sept Middlewood way, Macclesfield canal, pub lunch

Sun 26th Alderley Edge and Hare Hill gardens

• **Weekday Walks**

This month's local walk was a three mile, largely level walk which followed the towpath of the Macclesfield canal before joining the track beds of former colliery tram roads and railways. Enroute we encountered remains of a former Canal Pit and fantastic views of the moors and towards Manchester. We finished with a well

earned cup of tea sitting next to the canal watching the boats and wildlife.

Future weekday local walks dates for your diary

Fri Aug 8th Ladybrook valley to Poynton Garden Centre

Tues 9th Sept Lyme Park - Darcy's pond and a walk in the park.

Fri 10th Woodford

If you are interested in these, the weekend and/or the weekday walks please sign the lists at the meetings or contact Marjorie B, or Lorna H. It is a great way to spend an afternoon or day at the weekend.

• **Pub Quiz Team**

This month although missing a few weeks they managed to come 3rd once, two points behind the winners, but are still chasing that illusive 1st place. We received vouchers of £15.00 which we will be raffling at the afternoon tea event. Speak to Trish H if you are interested in joining them on Thursday evenings at the 'Puss in Boots' starting around 8.30 pm.

• **Fundraising afternoon tea**

We are having an 'Afternoon Tea' to raise funds for our WI on August 31st at 3pm, at Davenport Tennis Club. Organised by Lynda S, Sue J and Maddy F please can you let them know if you can bake a cake and what sort. Tickets are now available from any of the committee members, priced £5.00. Also if you have anything you can donate for the raffle please bring it along to any meeting or on the day. Please put the date in your diaries.

• **Suggestion Box**

We now have a suggestion box for members who would like to make suggestions for speakers for next year. Please give as much information as possible including full contact details and place in the box. We need this information over the next few months, so we can plan our 2015 programme. Also if you have ideas for activities that you would like to help to provide please put these in the suggestion box as well.

• **Cinema/Theatre group**

We have a very busy Cinema/Theatre group and 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.

'Henry 1V parts 1 and 11'

A group of us went to see Henry 1V parts I and II (screened in two parts, 14 May and 18 June). Shakespeare's epic story of the fight for supremacy for the throne of England after Richard II was brutally ousted by Henry IV. On the dark backdrop of intrigue, treason and civil war we were somewhat relieved by the injection of light hearted comedy in the guise of Sir John Falstaff, warm-hearted rogue and friend of the kings errand son, Prince Hal whose time was spent generally having fun, (perhaps not so different from our own current Prince Hal!!?). This was until events culminated in rebellion and challenge to the monarchy when young Hal mends his ways and returns to his ailing father's side whilst Falstaff faces consequences for unpaid debts and is packed off to recruit support for the King and to reduce his disreputable influence on the prince. To follow the complexities of the story, the performance as a whole demanded concentration and fortitude from the audience but all the

characterisations were nothing short of superb. We were all completely bowled over by Antony Sher as Falstaff who created a funny, naughty and completely believable rascal. The final scene when Falstaff is spurned by the reformed Hal as Henry V is almost inevitable but no less heart wrenching. In conclusion, hard going at times but memorable for the excellent and top quality acting by all the performers.

'Billy Liar'

A play that provoked differing opinions from those that attended. Some strong performances from the cast and a set that took us back in time with what would now be 'vintage' furnishings. Some thoroughly enjoyed it whilst others gave it a lukewarm reception. In any case a bargain with our £10 tickets!

'Ghost'

Several of us went to see Richard Eyre's production of Henrik Ibsen's Ghosts from the Trafalgar Studios and mostly agreed that we didn't think you could ever witness a better version. Genuinely moving but never melodramatic the story of a family trying to escape the ghosts of their past was an exceptional piece of theatre that will resonate long after the curtain fell. Whilst Lesley Manville in the lead role gave an extraordinary performance as a spirited woman undone by the lies that have engulfed her house and her family it was a superb ensemble production with the whole cast in top form. Tim Hatley's design, which offered layers of translucent glassy walls so we were constantly glimpsing movement behind them, placed the audience in a privileged position so that we could see what the characters could not. Exquisitely lit by Peter Mumford it evoked an atmosphere of shadowy hauntings and the play was staged at 90mins with no interval, ensuring that tension was maintained. A harrowing tale of the corrosive effects of living lies and harbouring secrets, Ghosts is more than 130 years old. Under Eyre's direction it seemed powerfully modern.

'Happy Days'

Anyone who remembers the cult American TV comedy, "Happy Days", missed a treat when members went to see the new musical version at the Lowry. With catchy songs, wonderful dancing and colourful costumes, it could be forgiven for having a rather thin storyline. The actor playing the Fonz did not quite embody his persona, but then who could live up to the character that Henry Winkler made his own? Cheryl Baker (Bucks Fizz) in the role of Mrs Cunningham was superb and she had the audience cheering when she whipped off her skirt in homage to their Eurovision Song triumph! We were even treated to a chat with the leading actors in the auditorium after the show.

'The Tempest'

A lucky seven went to see The Tempest broadcast from the Globe theatre to Cineworld Didsbury. It was an excellent performance with Roger Allam as Prospero and Colin Morgan (Merlin) as Ariel. It was both funny and touching with the music adding to the atmosphere. We were also safe from the cast falling into the audience and from the rain. One to watch out for should it come round again.

'From Here to Eternity'

"From here to Eternity" was originally a book but is perhaps best known for the Oscar winning 1953 film version. The musical version, with lyrics by Tim Rice, opened in London in 2013 but only ran for six months. We saw a film of the stage production at Cineworld which we thought was very good. With strong performances and a great score, it's hard to understand why it didn't do better in the West End. Our only slight disappointment was that the editing did not leave us with the feeling that we were in the theatre as the National Theatre Live screenings do.

Macbeth

Two ladies went to Cineworld, Parris Wood, to see the Globe on Screen production of Macbeth. The production by Eve Best certainly lived up to the critics acclamation of being "a masterpiece of ambition, treachery and madness". It was thoroughly gripping - intense but with touches of humour. Well acted with good choreography. Certainly well worth seeing.

Already booked

'Skylight NTL', 17th July
'Midsummer Night's Dream', 28th July
'Beauty and the Beast Ballet', 24th September
'Jersey Boys', 29th September
'Alan Davis', 31st October
'Ross Noble Gentleman', 19th February 2015

Future Options

'Monty Python Live (Mostly)' 20th July
'Two Gentlemen of Verona' – Didsbury 3rd September
'Medea NTL' - Didsbury, 4th September
'Salome. Wilde Salome' - Didsbury on 21/9

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.

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

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WI (NFWI)

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

CHESHIRE FEDERATION OF WI'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 Walk Wed 13th Aug**

Led by Plumley WI, this is a 5 mile circular walk around Pickmere and Great Budworth, bring a picnic lunch. To reserve a place contact Lynn Barber email: lynbarber64@gmail.com or phone 079738 99943 from 1st July

- **Keep Singing Day 20th Sept**

There is a Keep Singing Day at Byley Village Hall on Saturday 20th Sept from 10.00am - 3.00pm. The tuition is by Joyce Kirkpatrick, and the cost is £6.00 which includes music hire and tea/coffee, but please bring your own packed lunch. Closing date is 31st July. See Lorna for details.

- **Scrabble and Dominoes Tournament 22nd Sept**

This is being held at Tarvin Community Centre (CH3 8LY) on Mon 22nd Sept, starting at 7.00 pm. Please take your own dominoes or scrabble board. For further information please see Lorna. Closing dates for entries is 11th Sept.

- **Canal Art and Knotting 27th Sept**

Join the Craft and Art Committee for a Canal Art and Knotting day, on Sat 27th Sept at Lower Withington Parish Hall, Lower Withington, SK11 9DY. The session is from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm and will be divided into two sessions - half day for each craft. The price is £12.00 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits, but please bring your own packed lunch. Speak to Lorna if interested. Closing date Thur 31st July.

- **Autumn Council Meeting 7th Oct**

The Autumn Council Meeting is being held at Lifestyle Centre Winsford from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The speaker is Prue Leith who as well as being a brilliant cook and businesswoman, is an acclaimed novelist. The cost is £12.00. If you are interested in going please see Lorna.

- **Level 2 Food Safety Certificate**

In order for us to stay within regulations four of our members are being sponsored to undergo a one day course on 'Level 2 Food Safety Certificate'. Held at WI House Chester on Thursday 16th October 2014, the course runs from 10.00am-4.00pm approx. The cost is £48 and tea and coffee will be provided. If other members wish to go self-funding, please sign the list.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- **Christmas Cake Icing and Christmas Floral Demonstration 29th Nov**

This is being held at Tarvin Community Centre, CH3 8LY, from 10.30am-4.30pm approx. The cost is £18 which includes tea, coffee and a soup and sandwich lunch. Please apply to WI Headquarters, 11 White Friars, Chester, CH1 1NZ. enclosing cheques made payable to CFWI and enclose a SAE. Closing date 23rd October.

- **Chester Cathedral Christmas Concerts 17th and 18th Dec**

Chester Music Society Choir annual celebration of Christmas takes place on 17th and 18th Dec. As well as words and music with carols there will be readings and more from Ian McMillan who will bring a hoot of laughter to this year's celebrations. Tickets are priced from £8 - £15 depending where you sit, can be reserved with Andy Payne, Charnwood, Chester Road, Kelsall, Cheshire, CW6 0SE. E-mail: choirtickets@chestermusicsociety.org.uk

- **Darts Competition**

There is a Darts competition, culminating with the final on 10th March 2015. Please see Lorna if interested.

NORTH EAST CHESHIRE GROUP (NECG)

- **NECG Summer walk – 24th July**

This is an evening walk starting off from Brabyns car park, meeting at 7.00 pm, finishing with a meal. Please sign the list if interested.

Future NECG dates/event for your diary

Autumn Meeting - 15th Oct, 2 pm- Pastry chef

Trip out – 12th Nov – destination TBA

Carol Service – 9th December

NEXT MEETING

At our next meeting on Tues July 22nd we are having a talk from Steven K on Bees and Bee Keeping, at the Hazel Grove Civic Hall.

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

Aug 26th Ploughman's Supper - Members' Craft Evening
The ploughman's will cost £5.00 which will include t/c/cake. If you don't wish to have a ploughman's, t/c/cake will be the usual price. Please see Gloria earlier in a meeting rather than at the very end when we're clearing up to pay, if possible give her the £5.00 at the next meeting.

Sept 23rd Charity Speaker - Francis House

Oct 28th Quarry Bank Mill

HOSTESS ROTA

July's hostesses are Sue J, Linda S, Trish H and Maddy F. 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 a few months in 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 trade table this month but we will continue to have a book sale and we ask you to bring along books to sell on the night. Prices for books will be 50p for paperbacks and £1.00 for hardbacks. The loose change collection box will always be available for donations.

Our member Jo L very recently moved to Wales and celebrates her birthday on Aug 5th, so we are sending 'happy birthday' wishes from here to Wales, and hope she has 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.