

Wickhambrook Women's Institute Newsletter

Spring 2017 Issue 14

Keeping members and friends in touch

February Our February speaker was Edward Crichton from Lacey Scott and Knight who gave us an excellent insight into his life as an auctioneer. His description of the excitement of finding treasure in ordinary houses and selling it on was very interesting, especially high profile sales like the eight dust - covered sports cars found in an old barn. Divorce, death and downsizing are the forces behind most auctions and we laughed ruefully at some of Edward's stories. Because of the many TV programmes on antiques, we all seem to appreciate the past a bit more. Edward says he feels like a GP sending people to the experts based on his knowledge of most areas of antiques and auctions. His lively talk was enjoyed by all. Several members plan to visit one of the Saturday auctions while others will seek the advice of the Lacey Scott and Knight Team at their premises in Bury St Edmunds.

March What an excellent turnout we had at the March meeting, Paula Short's promised presentation about Coco Chanel, her life and loves having attracted many first timers to the Institute. Everyone was warmly welcomed by President Hilary Bradfield and after dealing with the business for the members, she introduced Paula to the waiting expectant audience. A superb raconteur Paula told the story of Gabrielle (Coco's proper name) from the loss of her mother at age 11 and being taken, along with her two younger sisters, unwanted by her father to a convent and put into the care of the nuns. These "aunties" as she called them were to have an influence throughout her life giving her a fierce, independent spirit and a work ethic which was always meticulously hands on! The loves in her life were a varied mix of high powered, rich, influential men but she never married and was always found embroiled in all kinds of political and society events, while using their financial resources to build an empire of businesses known as "The House of Chanel", till her death in



1971. An engrossing talk with very interesting and period slides to accompany it held all listening with rapt attention, she was warmly thanked by Dorothy Anderson for such an informative, well researched and enjoyable presentation. Groups later vied to create our own "Little Black Dress" in her honour out of black bin bags producing unique styling and accessories, the winning outfit was modelled by Sally Welsh. A fun filled and super evening for all!



APRIL Hilary Ritchie, the Archivist of Addenbrooke's Hospital was the speaker this month and she gave us a fascinating insight into the history of this great institution. When Dr John Addenbrooke died in 1719 at the age of 39, he had no children and his wife died soon after him. He left a sum of money to build a hospital for everyone, including the poor, in Cambridge and the surrounding district. When it opened in 1766 in a house in Hills Road there were 20 beds, 11 patients, 3 surgeons and 3 physicians. Leeches, maggots and honey as an antiseptic were all used in 1766 in the hospital and still are today. As we all know, the hospital has expanded and moved, and continues to be the flagship teaching hospital of the area.

May



The meeting started with a sugar rush, which kept us awake and lively for the whole meeting! Adrian and Lily Turner from Yum Yum Tree Fudge came to tell us about their delicious home-made product and there were so many flavours to taste we had to have bottles of water to cleanse our palates between each one. The couple have been making fudge at Thurston for about eight years and usually sell it at Shows and Fairs and it has really taken off. We were happy to try and buy from the whole range which has favours including rose, liquorice, double ginger and mango. Even those who professed not to like fudge were seen buying 'for the grandchildren', of course. The business of the monthly meeting was swiftly concluded. At the AGM, Vice-President Dorothy Anderson thanked retiring committee member Sue Burton-Griffiths for her work over the years and wished her well for future projects. The Resolutions for the National AGM were discussed and voted on before members departed (carrying carrier bags of fudge!)

Future Meetings

Tuesday 13th June **OPEN Meeting, All Welcome.**

ALL WELCOME

Annual Literacy Lunch

Friday 16th June 2017

With Rosy Thornton

Tickets £7.50

**from Dorothy
Anderson (820376)**

Belly Dancing with Victoria Painting. Talk and demonstration and an opportunity to participate.

Tuesday 11th July "The Spy Who Loved" with Claire Mulley.

Tea Parties:

Friday: 9th June 14th July from 2pm to 4pm

All profits to a local charity or group and for our Denman Bursary.

Remember

Wickhambrook Carnival Day

8th July 2017

Come and have a delicious afternoon tea in the W.I. Hall

Please come and join us at our monthly meetings, we'll be so pleased to see you again!

For more information contact Hilary Bradfield (01440 821713)

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