

LITTLE BUDWORTH W.I. SEPTEMBER NEWS

President Beryl Worrall welcomed members and visitors to our September meeting.

The following forthcoming outings were discussed; the Forest Group meeting on the 10th October when Margaret Thrower (daughter of Percy Thrower) is the speaker. A visit to see the Buddy Holly story on the 16th November and a chance to hear the Weaver Valley choir on the 21st October at the Winsford Academy. On the 12th December Christmas Carols will take place at Tarvin Church and on the 14th December members and guests will be having Christmas dinner at Vale Royal Golf Club, Whitegate.

Beryl then introduced our speaker (a change to the published speaker) Hazel Griffiths whose talk was entitled Cruising to Greenland and Iceland. Hazel is employed by the Fred Olsen Cruise line to give a talk on every port of call the ship made and to act as a guide when ashore. The ship she was on sailed from Forsyth in Scotland to the Faroe Islands, then on to Greenland and Iceland before heading back to Edinburgh.

With the help of photographs Hazel showed us the sights of the Faroe Islands, a region of Denmark, made up of 18 islands. It is a haven for birdwatchers with attractive flora and fauna. Then on to Greenland, another region of Denmark, the largest island that is not a continent, 80% of which is not inhabited. On this part of the cruise, the ship had two captains on board as well as an Ice Pilot and was the only ship that had managed to dock that year. Fortunately this cruise had good weather and there was no ice in the harbour. Icebergs are made up of freshwater floating on sea water; new icebergs are white in colour but turn bluish as they get older. Erik Thorvaldsson (Erik the Red) was the first European to land on Greenland and this is commemorated by a statue of him. An American air base was built here in 1940 and was used for refuelling purposes during the war. Now there is only an air strip and the buildings no longer remain.

Iceland, also Danish, was the last island the ship docked at and although there are no trees on the island all the buildings are made of wood and colourfully painted. Most of the population live in the capital Reykjavik. We were shown photographs of the famous volcanic dust storm that had happened shortly before the cruise took place and of glaciers and geysers in the National parks. Iceland is also famous for being the first place in the world to have a Parliament.

Hazel Griffiths might have been a replacement speaker but we had a wonderful evening and the photographs were stunning. She was thanked by Glenys Jones and the evening was rounded off by refreshments served by Val Tough and Sandy McKnight.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on the 12th October when Nick Hunt is coming to give a talk on the Lion Salt Works. Visitors most welcome.

