

## Little Budworth WI report - August 2016

President Beryl Worrall welcomed members to the August meeting with a taster of forthcoming events. Members are going on a behind the scenes visit to Sainsbury's in Northwich on 21st September; a trip to see The Buddy Holly Story on 16th November and a Christmas Party on 14th December. The Jubilee Hall Fund Committee are arranging a MacMillan Coffee Morning in the Jubilee Hall on 30th September and WI members agreed to help with refreshments.

Sandra Farr was congratulated on receiving a Highly Commended certificate from the Cheshire Show for her delightful photograph of children playing in a pedal car, entitled "Anyone for a Taxi?"

Our speaker for the evening was Camille Bradford on "Childhood travels with the Army". Camille told how her father joined the band of the Gloucestershire Regiment as an accomplished musician and tenor singer. In 1938 he met her mother, a English lady of the Raj born and brought up in Madras, India. They married in 1940 after an old fashioned chaperoned courtship. Camille showed members a wedding photograph with the groom resplendent in a white uniform so starched that he had to be lowered into the trousers.

Camille was born in Burma during a bad bombardment. When she was three and a half weeks old the bombing had become so severe that the women and children were evacuated to Mandalay across open terrain in Army trucks, without lights at night. When they arrived the RAF would not fly them out. They were rescued by the American Flying Tigers, who flew them in bombers to Calcutta. The journey was so rough and noisy that the women were throwing up in their sun hats. After a brief respite they went on a three and a half day train journey to a Himalayan Hill Station at Rawalpindi. They arrived in summer clothes to four feet of snow and blizzards.

Meanwhile her father, one of the Forgotten Army was involved in fierce fighting against the Japanese and was severely wounded. His motto was "The show must go on" and eventually he was reunited with his family. They undertook a hazardous journey by sea back to the UK. Their ship was almost wrecked during a cyclone. When they arrived in the UK, her mother, who had never looked after a house or cooked a meal before, had to learn a new set of skills. Her motto of "Never give in" saw her through.

In 1947 they were posted to Germany in the worst winter on record. They arrived in the bombed out city where it was so cold that the tears froze on their faces. Camille said they were grateful for their survival when so many others had died. She illustrated her talk with photographs, saris and beautiful dolls collected over the years. Anne Hall thanked Camille for her fascinating and moving talk. Katie and Gina Pearce made the refreshments.

The next WI meeting is on Wednesday 14th September at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall, The speaker will be Gill Adlington with a talk on "The Bob Ross Painting Technique". New members will be warmly welcomed.