

## Little Budworth WI January News

Beryl Worrall welcomed everyone to our January meeting and wished us a Happy and Healthy New Year.

As we did not have a meeting in December there was some correspondence to be dealt with. It was proposed that we hold our annual fund raising Cheese and Wine evening, again this year and the date suggested is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June. So please save the date.

Beryl then introduced Mr. Charles Hardy of the Old Fire Station Chocolate Shop, Tarporley, who gave us a very interesting insight into chocolate production and the history of chocolate, its uses and the reasons why their shop was opened in Tarporley.

Charles' grandfather, though a stockbroker, had become involved in a confectionary company which in time had become a family business. However, in the 1980s the confectionary industry in the UK collapsed and the only growing market was in continental chocolates. Thus Hardy & Co was started in 1990 firstly as a wholesale company and then at Blakemere Craft Centre and Tarporley in 1994.

Only the best chocolate is used in continental chocolates and the best ones are handmade – it's not possible to mass produce them. Charles explained how cocoa beans are grown and processed providing the various components which are used in the making of various types of chocolate. He explained that chocolate had to be 'tempered' i.e. prepared before it is ready to be used. He also told us that the white bloom on chocolate is either 'fat bloom' or 'sugar bloom', the latter being caused by damp. He said that chocolate kept cool and dry will last for a very long time.

Finally, Charles demonstrated the art of making truffles with the molten chocolate he had brought with him, which made us desperate to sample some of the truffles which he had promised us!

Glenys Jones gave the Vote of Thanks and refreshments were then served by Ruby Speed and Christine McKenzie.

### **Two further dates for your diary.**

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm when we will be having a Beetle Drive with a Pancake Theme. So do come along to what promises to be a fun evening.

Len Tomlinson from the Daffodil Farm in Whitegate is coming to our March meeting, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Some of you may have had a visit there over the years, but you are welcome to come along to hear more about this local attraction.

As always visitors are most welcome to come to any of our meetings.

