

## Little Budworth WI March News

Diane Robinson welcomed everyone to our March meeting including our speaker Mr. Len Tomlinson, from Foxwist Green Farm, Whitegate.

The business part of the meeting was then dealt with; Items of note are as follows:

The Annual Council meeting at Sandbach High School was attended by Catherine Chester and Helen Chrimes. Catherine gave a report on this meeting. The speaker in the afternoon was Chris Lubbe, who was at one time a bodyguard to Nelson Mandela. He told of his life growing up in South Africa when the apartheid was in place. He suffered deprivation, segregation, and torture and struggled against the injustice of the apartheid. It was a truly moving and sometimes harrowing account and at the end of his inspirational talk he received a standing ovation.

Catherine, our Group Representative, also reported on the forthcoming Group meeting to be held in Tarporley, on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, when Jean Martyn, an International Concert Organist and Pianist will be the speaker. Tickets are £7.00.

There is to be a Literary Lunch at Cheshire View, Christleton on the 19<sup>th</sup> April when the speaker will be Sarah Ward. Sarah is a Crime Fiction Author and Reviewer.

There is a PAL meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Byley, when Dr. Ruth Bromley will be speaking on "How are ethical dilemmas resolved in medicine"

After the business part had been dealt with Diane introduced our speaker.

Mr. Len Tomlinson then gave a power point presentation on "100 years of farming at Whitegate" which included 70 years of growing daffodils and narcissi. Gardeners World has filmed the many varieties of daffodils at his farm and he is also a well known daffodil breeder. He showed us photographs of daffodils, told us their names, when they flowered and that some daffodils are used for medicinal purposes. Also, old photographs of the horses used on the farm, to mow the oats and to drill the fields ready to plant the daffodils. His farming family had 3 acres of glasshouses and 30 acres of flowers such as chrysanthemums and dahlias and they had a stall in the Outdoor Market in Northwich.

When he retired Mr. Tomlinson decided to use the daffodils as a way of raising money for MacMillan Cancer Research. The first year he raised £300, last year £12,000, a total of £50,000 pounds to date. Mr. Tomlinson is a very interesting and entertaining speaker and I think a visit to Foxwist Green Farm is called for.

He was thanked by Nicki Stott and then refreshments were served by Anne Hales and Glenys Jones.

A Coffee morning was held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the home of Nicki Stott. This was a very well attended and successful event. The money raised is to be divided between the W.I. Denman Appeal and Tarporley War Memorial Hospital. Beryl Worrall thanked Nicki and Chris for their hospitality and everyone for their generosity.

**Dates for your diary.**

**Hazel Griffiths is coming to speak on her South American Journey on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.**

**Rosie Lee is our speaker on Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> Farming the Enviroment & the Future**

**Our annual fund raising Cheese and Wine will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June.**

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