

The Girls

It was a small (but perfectly formed) group of ladies who had a day out in London on 30th March to see Gary Barlow's amazing production of "The Girls". We took the train to London and, with all the chit-chat going on, the journey time of two hours flew by. We decided to head straight for the theatre and have a bite to eat in that vicinity. We also discovered an attractive looking Italian restaurant so made a booking for dinner, after the show.



The show itself - what can I say? The story is about a group of W.I. ladies, two of whom are played in the film by Helen Mirren and Julie Walters. One of their husbands, John Clark, has cancer and, on visiting him in hospital, it becomes apparent that the sofa in the 'family room' has seen better days. When he dies, his widow and friends decide to do something to replace the rotten sofa. They produce a nude calendar but with a difference: it would be tasteful, with nothing really showing thanks to strategically placed cakes, flowers, wooden spoons, and fruit, covering all the relevant bits!!! The whole thing was hilarious, and wonderfully acted. Ladies, you don't have to panic, we have already told Elaine we are not doing it!!! So many calendars were sold, they raised enough money to open a whole wing of the hospital, in John Clark's name and don't forget, this was a true story.

There were some sad moments but generally we laughed till we ached. Everyone in the audience had a smile on their face and we all gave the amazing cast a standing ovation.

Then it was off to the restaurant for a lovely meal with a fair bit of alcohol, including tots of limoncello given to us by the restaurant manager. We arrived back in Stockport at 10.40pm and unbelievably nobody fell asleep on the way home, not even Althea who was convinced she would.

Due to the success of this outing, I think I can feel another one coming up - any suggestions as to what shows anyone would care to see, let me know.

Sue Shonfeld

NFWI Annual Meeting Wednesday 7th June 2017

This year's NFWI Meeting was held at the Echo Arena in Liverpool and I was joined by Barbara Owen, Molly Fowler, Caroline Turner and Sheila Maguire. The meeting got off to a good start with a very warm welcome from the Mayor of Liverpool followed by NFWI business, two very interesting guest speakers and a full debate on the two resolutions. Both resolutions were passed with significantly more support for Plastic Soup (98.9%) than Preventing Loneliness (69.3%), which mirrored our own voting. **See your July WI Life magazine pages 14 - 20 for a good account of the meeting and the resolution debates.** It was not all hard work though! As the meeting drew to a close, we all took to our feet to dance and sing along to a to a Beatles Tribute band and if anyone doesn't believe me I have photographic evidence to prove it! This is the second Annual General Meeting I have been able to attend and it is a wonderful experience. I can't tell you how inspiring and moving it as the piano strikes up and the voices of so many women begin singing Jerusalem. It is then you realise how unique the WI is in bringing together women from all over the UK of different ages, backgrounds, political persuasions and faiths with the aim of making a difference at so many levels. If you have not been to an event like this I can recommend it.

Elaine Fisher

Planning for our Centenary Year

The committee would like to thank all the members who put forward suggestions for potential events for our centenary celebrations next year. Thanks also to the group of members who met as the Centenary Planning Group in June and looked in more detail at your suggestions and how we could make it work. In putting together the programme, the Planning Group took the following into consideration: the programme will have to be within our financial and human resources, provide something for everyone, be balanced across the whole year and have a clear timetable. This is still work in progress and the Group will present its draft programme at our September meeting.

Elaine Fisher

Our Committee 2017-18

Many of the current committee members have been in office for at least four years and the time has now come for some of our newer members to join the committee. Go on give it a go!

Any member who would like to be on the committee next year should put their name on the form which will be on the notice board at our September and October meetings. Please also state if you wish to nominate yourself for President.

If, at the end of the October meeting (our deadline), we have more than 10 potential committee members and more than one nomination for President, we will hold a ballot for committee members and President at our November Annual Meeting, in line with WI rules.

Marilyn Henderson