

Little Budworth W.I. April news

The talk at our April meeting was entitled Deadly Beauty and our speaker was Vivienne Derricut, a History graduate who also does tours of Chester dressed as a 17th century woman of the lower class. The higher class of ladies had their bodices laced at the back as they had a lady's maid, but the lower classes had to dress themselves so front lacing was easier to do. Gina Pearce was a good sport and volunteered to don items of clothing replicating the dress of that time, the difference being these clothes were clean, which was not always the case in the 17th century as washing was considered sinful and dangerous.

A flannel wash and the use of perfumed oil were considered normal habits for that time. Ladies washed their faces in 'miracle water' that contained puppy urine, used a mixture of cat poo and vinegar to remove facial hair and whitened their faces with a paste containing white lead and mercury. To make their eyes sparkle they put drops in using Bella Donna (Deadly Nightshade) added to water. Blusher for the cheeks was made from crushed beetle shells known as cochineal and to enhance their eyebrows they glued strips of mouse hide to their brows. Beauty spots and motifs were used to hide scars and pimples. Blonde hair was not considered fashionable so they dyed their hair darker using fermented urine and soot and used egg white to set ringlets in place. Goodness knows what they smelt like.

The vote of thanks was given by Sandra Farr and tea and biscuits were served after the talk by Carol Smith and Caroline Hall.

Be sure to get your tickets for our annual Cheese and Wine evening held this year on June 3rd at 8pm. They are £8.00 and this includes your first glass of wine and supper. There will be the usual quizzes and raffle. Contact Joan Johnson on 760 422 for tickets.

Our speaker on May 11th is Brian Crossley 'Why do some chairs have cane seats' and his talk covers elements of history, botany, geography and the craft itself which will be supplemented by a slide show.

Visitors most welcome.