

Little Budworth W.I. March News

At our March meeting our speaker was Matthew Lepp and the talk was entitled The History of Soap. Matthew and his sister started the business in 2002 and called it Tiger Muffin Soaps. The name originates from their childhood nicknames, Matthew being Muffin. The business has now expanded and they make 30 different soaps, bubble baths and hand creams.

He started with a demonstration on how to make a bath bomb and then told us that the earliest record of soap making goes back to 2800BC but no recipe of the ingredients is still in existence. We do know that 1000 years later the Phoenicians made soap using goat fat, salt and beech wood ash; this was however too strong to use on their bodies. It was not until after 1066 that soap makers in Castile in Spain used olive oil and then the soap could be used to wash with. Peasants were unable to afford such luxuries as soap so they used a plant called Soapwort that grew alongside streams.

Matthew then demonstrated how to make soap with the help of a microwave and a variety of rubber moulds to make very interesting shapes and free samples were later given to our members.

In 1806 William Colgate was the first big soap manufacturer in the United States of America and Pears Soap was the first to use advertising to sell their products.

After Matthew's talk finished members were able to buy a variety of handmade soaps, hand cream and hand lotions and much sampling and smelling of the products went on. The vote of thanks was given by Sandy McKnight and a most enjoyable evening was finished off with refreshments being served by Diane Robinson and Carol Smith.

The Forest Group meeting takes place on 9th May in Tarporley when the speaker will be Lillian King – Ex Chief Superintendent of the Greater Manchester police.

Our annual fund raising Cheese and Wine evening will take place on Friday June 3rd and more details will follow next month.

April 13th will see Vivienne Derricut talking on Deadly Beauty, so come along for 7.30pm and be entertained. Visitors always welcome.