



Post Maespedr



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Canal History & Art

Our guest speaker for the September meeting was Terri Robinson. She is an artist with a particular interest in canal ware painting. Terri had brought some of the smaller examples of her work which were available for purchase.

She began her talk by explaining how she had become involved with canals and especially the art work. Terri then gave us a brief account of the history of the canal system in this country.



Canals were needed for the Industrial Revolution which was creating huge amounts of heavy produce which had to be moved. The man most associated with early canals was the Duke of Bridgewater. The Duke had been impressed with the Canal du Midi in France. He gave the task of designing and building the Bridgewater canal to James Brindley an engineer who at this time had never built a canal before. It took two years to build and was completed in 1761. Joshua Wedgwood later commissioned James Brindley to build a network of canals to link the North and South of England. Sixty new canals were constructed with some amazing feats of engineering created such as the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and the Bingley Five Rise Lock to name but two.

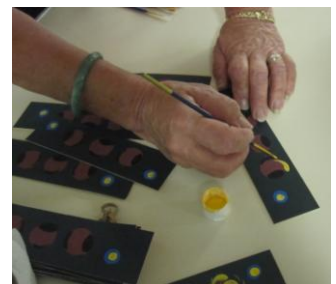
The Canal industry was thriving at this time and workers who were housed in canal side cottages had a better standard of living than factory workers. However this



was to change with the arrival of the Railways. There were greater economic benefits by using the railways for transporting produce. So inevitably use of the canals dwindled and money became short for the boatmen. They had to bring their wives and families on board to work the boat in the place of a crew. The women folk of the boatmen brought their domestic pride onto the boats with them. Their space was limited, and this made them even more determined to make every item bright and attractive. With colourful painted motifs adorning every available surface, the boat men and women displayed their pride in their homes.

Canals were used during WW2 to transport munitions, coal, troops and vital supplies. Then followed a long period of neglect until they were recognised as being valuable assets in the leisure industry. Restoration projects were set up all over the country.

Terri then gave us a powerpoint presentation to show the amount of work required in creating some of her items. She demonstrated some of the brush strokes and then we were invited to try our skills as canal artists.



Did you know?

Since the Ukraine has been in the news repeatedly this year you must have heard the name Donetsk . Did you know that the original name of the town was Yuzovka, a corruption of Hughesovka or Hughes Town.

In the 19C John Hughes of Merthyr was invited to Russia to develop the coal and iron resources of the Donbas region .He took with him South Walian workers and established one of the largest steelworks in Europe and the town of Yuzovka. The church was named St David's.

After the Russian Revolution the town was renamed Stalino but now it is Donetsk.

Following on from Donetsk and the Ukraine ...

sometime ago we were involved in a charity event for children from Chernobl. Members from Petersfield and district may also have been involved and even accommodated them. The nuclear disaster at the power plant has produced toxic effects which still continue and young teenagers are brought out of the environment periodically, hence the charity. I volunteered to clear up tapes that had been used as direction indicators in the Queen Elizabeth Forest and was met by one of the Rangers who told me he was researching colonies of adders. He had an impeccable English accent. He then asked me about the charity and I explained as above. He then told me that his father had found that the inhabitants of the Ukraine were not very friendly towards him (pause) in 1943. He must have heard my cranial cogs clunking away because he then said his father had been wearing a field grey uniform. I said "Wermacht, little wonder they were unfriendly". His father was an engineering officer in the German army. Later his father's unit was moved west and he was captured by the British and stayed here after the war.

Carwyn Hughes

Recipe Corner



Crunchy 'No Cook' Malteser Cake

75g (2.75oz) Butter
30ml (2 tbs) golden syrup
30ml (2 tbs) cocoa powder
175g (6 oz) Rich Tea Biscuits
175g (6 oz) Maltesers

1. Melt the butter and golden syrup together. Add the cocoa powder and stir in.
2. Roughly crush the biscuits and stir into the butter mixture.
3. Crush half of the Maltesers and add to the mixture. Add the remaining whole Maltesers.
4. Place the mixture into a piece of cling film and mould into a sausage shape. Wrap in the film and place in the fridge for at least 2 hours.
5. Cut into 12 slices.

Thank you Mary for yet another delicious recipe.

You know you are Welsh, if you can say yes to any three of the following.

1. You know at least 10 "Dais"
2. You have to explain what "togs" are and more importantly what "daps" are.
3. You've suddenly realized that you are 10p short for the Severn Bridge
4. "Fin hoffi coffi" does not mean fluency in Welsh
5. You've bumped into someone you know on your holidays in the Costa del sol
6. You support any team that plays against England
7. You know at least one person who claims they were in school with either Charlotte Church, Katherine Jenkins, Ioan Gryffudd or Catherine Zeta-Jones
8. You wince when you see Welsh persons making idiots of themselves on TV and they usually have the strongest Welsh accent ever.
9. You raise a small cheer when you see the "Croeso I Gymru" on the M4
10. Your surname is one of the following: Williams, Gwynne, Bevan, Llewellyn, Morgan, Rees, Powell, Howell, Davies, Lewis, Thomas, Jones, Griffiths, Morris, Evans, James, Roberts, Jenkins, Owen or Ap Windsor.