

## WOMEN IN NEWARK

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2006

Apologies: Jenny Searle, Jacky Huson, Andrea Edlin, Janet Watson, Sue Lovell, Vanessa Bowman, Kate Mercer, Nicola Parr

1. Elaine Ellison (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that all mobiles be switched off. It was proposed to introduce a "fine" of £5.00 for any phone that went off during the meeting, with the proceeds to be donated to the St Johns Ambulance.
2. Elaine then introduced Phil Armitage, a Partner at Larkens Solicitors who also sits as a Deputy District Judge in South Yorkshire and Humberside. He gave an entertaining and informative talk explaining the process of selection and training of judges. He outlined the benefits of being able to combine his role as a judge with that of being a solicitor and how rewarding it was to be able to see "the system" work and there was the cautionary tale of how he became locked in a stairwell in the court building at Sheffield on his first day!

There were a number of questions from members, especially the solicitors who were interested to know how a judge copes when an advocate presents him with unfamiliar authorities and, conversely, whether judges are ever tempted to help out inexperienced advocates. Members were also slightly disappointed to learn that the formal dress requirements for a Deputy District Judge extend only to a dark suit and not full regalia and wig.

3. There were introductions and apologies, and new members were welcomed.
4. Elaine then brought the meeting up to date with matters arising from the previous Minutes:-

Unfortunately Braiths have decided that it is not convenient for WIN to meet there. The Red House had stepped in at the eleventh hour and they will also host the May meeting. The meeting for June will be an evening meeting with champagne and strawberries, to be hosted by Frances Kelly. The venue for the July meeting is still to be confirmed but the August meeting will take place at "Ann et Vin".

There was a short discussion regarding venues for the rest of the year, and also as to timing of meetings. On balance members favoured returning to The Red House and maintaining the start time of 4.00pm for the time being.

5. Elaine then brought us up to date with more news:
  - (i) Charmaine Fenton has hosted a coffee morning and raised £110.00 for St Johns Ambulance.
  - (ii) The next business women's lunch was to be on Thursday at 12.30pm at the Navigation where there was to be a presentation given by the Crusader Boat.
  - (iii) There were leaflets available for the following:
    - The programme of restoration for Newark Church Organ.
    - Newark and Notts Show.
    - Epilepsy Newsletter.
    - Orston Lane Nursery, with a discount on purchases over £20.00.
    - Business Champions.
    - St Johns Ambulance (badges were available).
    - The gala dinner for "Enterprising Women".

- (iv) Ann Hayes announced the Newark Jazz Festival. This is to be held between May 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> starting with "Jazz at Vespers" at the church in Newark, which will feature a mixture of jazz and gospel music.

On the Saturday there is to be a river boat cruise aboard "The Sonning" and tickets will be £20.00 including barbeque. There are also to be free concerts in various pubs.

- (iii) Women in Newark has been supporting NEBA, especially with their enterprise day at the High School. We have received a letter saying how much our help is appreciated.
- (iv) There are a few tickets left for the Fundraising Ball on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at The Red House in aid of the St Johns Ambulance Appeal. There has been a great demand for tickets and the numbers have been raised to 160 to accommodate this.

Charmaine gave an update on the fundraising effort. There is now to be a charity auction and people will be able to bid for a week's accommodation in Portugal for six people, a long weekend for six people at Robin Hoods Bay and a further "lot" which may be either a night in the four poster bed at Compton House or a photo shoot (details to be confirmed).

There is also to be a raffle and donations are coming in.

Gift Aid forms will be available at the Ball.

- (v) Ann also announced that there was to be an open garden at North Muskham in aid of St Johns Ambulance and the date is to be confirmed.
6. Elaine announced details of the "Women of Enterprise" lunch. This is to be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May between 12.00 and 3.00pm at the marquee at The Red House. The lunch will be free to WIN members and invitations will be sent from Business Link. The speaker is to be Christine Doherty from Rotheras Solicitors and Elaine asked members to support the event.
  7. Charmaine reminded members of the Pudding Extravaganza at the Town Hall at 7.00pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> April in aid of Beaumont House. There are now another six to eight tickets available and these can be obtained from Zoe at Beaumont House.
  8. Sue Crosby from Business Link Nottinghamshire then gave a short talk and invited comments from members. There was a discussion as to how women who are currently at home, either looking after children or as carers, can be encouraged into their own businesses and Sue outlined that information and support was available from Business Link.
  9. The next meeting will be at The Red House on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May where the speaker is to be Kim Argyll who will talk about "Body Language in Business". Members are asked to arrive at 3.55pm in the bar as Kim would like to "observe" us for a few minutes prior to the start of the meeting!