

WOMEN IN NEWARK

Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday, 10th February 2009 at 4.00p.m. at Roman Way, Newark, Nottinghamshire

1. The Chairman, Tracey Hughes welcomed all members. Apologies were received from :

Louise Girling
Sue Lovell
Gwyneth Jeyes
Liz Walker
Portia Green

Kirsty Cole
Julie Rusby
Dawn Berry
Liz Norton
Tina Bettison

The members introduced themselves. Pat Hurst of Castlegate Studios, Swan & Salmon Yard, Newark, invited everyone to her sale weekend on 14th and 15th February 2009 when the pictures will be half price.

2. The next fund raising event is the Casino Night with a cruise theme on 25th February 2009 at The Roman Way, Lincoln Road, Newark. Cost: £21.00 to include a supper and £5.00 of gambling chips. The event is being sponsored by Hyde Barker Travel and is a black tie event. If you would like tickets, please contact Elaine Ellison on 01636 708630.
3. There is also a fund raising fashion lunch to be held on Thursday, 19th March at The Roman Way, Lincoln Road, Newark. Cost: £12.00, time: 12.00 p.m. for 12.30 p.m. Aura Fashions will be putting on a fashion show during the lunch.

The menu is attached and those members who have tickets, could they please let Elaine have their choice of menu.

If anyone would like to book tickets, please also contact Elaine on 01636 708630.

4. Members were asked if they would be interested in taking part in the Newark Carnival 2009, to be held on Sunday 12th July 2009 at 2.00 p.m. A theme of "Sex in the City" was suggested and a show of hands indicated that a number of members would be interested in supporting this and taking part.
5. Tracey had been approached by the Firebird Trust, a charity who specialises in music development. They are based in Lincoln and are looking for anybody interested in becoming a Trustee. Further details can be found on their website at "www.firebirdtrust.com". If there are any members interested, please either speak to Tracey or members can contact Sue Hawes at Firebird Trust directly, details are on their website.

6. Tracey then welcomed the speaker, Robert Turner, a Director of Hyde Barker Travel. He gave a brief overview of the history of this family run business and explained that they are one of the oldest retail travel agents in the country. They were set up in 1948 and have been trading for 61 years. As a completely independent travel agent, they can offer a wider variety of holiday solutions which the larger holiday companies cannot.

Robert talked about the history of spas and how ever since Greek and Roman times the benefits of healing through water have been appreciated. He then outlined the various worldwide spa holidays they can offer from the deluxe such as a spa in the vineyards of Bordeaux which uses its grapes and wine in their therapy; therapeutic spas such as thermal springs; the holistic spas which treat body and mind through to the pampering spas.

He then went on to talk about the services they offer from a business perspective. They can offer discounted hotel rates, conferences at sea: whereby a section of a voyage around Norway can be used by businesses, down to holiday vouchers for staff incentive schemes.

Robert then suggested four points which may be useful to any business in these difficult economic times: **1.** It is important to differentiate from the opposition – good is the enemy of the best. **2.** Excellent customer service. He gave an example that at Hyde Barker Travel all staff are working towards NVQ's in Customer Service and he did urge members to look into the government funding available for training at the present time. **3.** Adapting to changing markets and new initiatives. **4.** We all face competition from the internet however, we need to emphasise that we are professionals and the benefits this brings as opposed to booking on the internet.

After questions from the floor, Robert also mentioned Hyde Barker Travel have adopted WIN's charity of the Breast Screening Unit at Newark Hospital as their charity and therefore any fund raising they do throughout the year will be donated to this cause. Tracey then thanked Robert for an interesting and enjoyable talk.

7. Members should note that the April meeting will not be held at The Roman Way and will be meeting at Farndon Boat House at 4.00 p.m. where Clare Hargreaves will be giving a walk and talk on the Willows at Farndon.
8. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th March 2009 at 4.00 p.m. at The Roman Way, Lincoln Road, Newark. The speaker will be Lillie Interiors.