

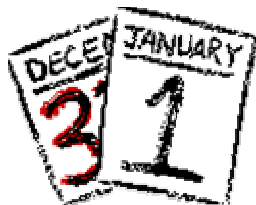
# Kenton NWR Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 295198

Local organisers:

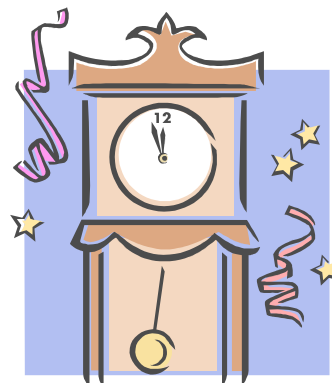
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Copydate 26<sup>th</sup> January



Double click on notes



## January 2007

**Happy and healthy New Year to one and all!** Normally the January newsletter is combined with the December one but as so many of you manage to mislay it over the festive season and cannot remember when the meetings are taking place we decided to send out what started out as a brief newsletter, but like Topsy it just grewed, for the beginning of the new year.

We shall not update the members' list nor the telephone grapevine until we have been superseded by the "ladies-in-waiting". Meanwhile here is a reminder to alter your grapevine lists as Jackie's telephone number has an incorrect last digit. It should read 3743 and not 3742. It is correct on the members' list.

We hope that you have fully recovered from the overeating, binge drinking and the festive orgies and that you have remembered to pay your subs for 2007. If not PLEASE PAY YOUR £26 NOW – cheques payable to Gwyneth.

*Gwyneth and Lucille*



### Happy Birthday to

Greta for 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Sandy for 8<sup>th</sup> January  
and Ginger for 31<sup>st</sup> January

#### Message from Viv and sister Evelyn

*Many thanks to you all for your kind wishes and visits after the death of our mum. Your thoughts were greatly appreciated.*

# JANUARY MEETINGS

## MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007 – TALK ON GENEALOGY



It's family tree time! Our very knowledgeable long-standing NWR member, Rosemary, has offered to give us a talk on genealogy. Rosemary has been tracing her family tree for a good few years now and she will be explaining to us just how this can be done. It is great when one of our own members participates like this for it is the raison d'être of the organisation. Participation is the name of the game! Please make an effort to attend even if the weather is bad for the time of year. Skeletons will be coming out of the closet.

**8pm at Margaret's 3 Cranleigh Gardens 8204 7794**

## THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007 – THEATRE CLUB

It is time to spend the money you were given as presents during the festive season – “What money?” I hear you ask. If you got some then spend it! If you did not get any spend it anyway! It is better than giving it to Gordon Brown! This time when we book something we hope it will be a 100 per cent improvement on “Top Girls” which we booked at Watford Palace last year and where eleven of us walked out at the interval. Well, it cannot be any worse! Compensation came the very next day when seven of us went to the Travellers Studios to see an amateur production of “House Guest” which cost only £7 yet provided us with much jollity, guesswork, amusement and audience participation. This proves it does not have to be an expensive production to please its audience! Bring theatre reviews, lists and cheque books.

**8pm at Val's 99 Ruskin Gardens 8204 8289**

## WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007 – PLANNING MEETING

This is it ladies – the meeting of the year! The one where you can put forward your ideas for future meetings and outings and the rest of us can shoot, or in our case “shout” you down in flames. Brave the cold, the damp and maybe the fog and come and share lots of ideas.

**8pm at Glenda's 58 Jellicoe Gardens 8385 7107**

# FEBRUARY MEETINGS

## MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – TABLE TOP RALLY

Geography is not one of your Organisers' fortes but never mind we are prepared to give it a go. Map readers come into their own here. Plot the route on the Ordnance Survey map and see which team will be the first to reach the final destination. This evening takes a lot of planning so please come and support Louise .

**8pm at Louise's 1 Northwick Circle 8907 2060**



## TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – BOOK CLUB “J”

In this case “J” stands for juvenile but those of us at the last meeting felt it should be more teenage than infant style books. As this time of year the weather is usually bad you can snuggle up in front of the fire (or the radiator) with your book and then come and review it.

**8pm at Linda's 26 Archery Close 8427 3878**



### **MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 – NORTHOLT AIRPORT VISIT**

Balkin's baulking at the job of looking after all you afternoon trippers to RAF Northolt. She has handed it over to a much more handsome leader – another Balkin. Seriously folks an offer too good to be missed came up of a holiday in New Orleans for Mardi Gras so N & L will be off on their travels again and shall be away from 12<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> February! BUT we are leaving you in the capable hands of Stuart! He will have the list of people attending and will be deputy organiser for the afternoon. Do not worry I have organised for Neville and myself to tag on to another group going in March so we will not miss out on the tour – just the company.

The tour starts at 2pm and ends at 4.30pm. Security is very tight here and the full names of people attending plus details of their cars, if parking there, will be required a week prior to the visit. Anybody attending will be required to bring photographic I.D. such as a passport - Freedom passes will NOT do.

Remember the air traffic control tower has 20 steps and is unsuitable for people with mobility problems!

**If you intend to drive there please let me know the registration number of the vehicle in which you are travelling as I have to give this to RAF Northolt authorities.**

Final details and instructions will be published in the February newsletter so those people attending please watch this space!

### **THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY – PLAYREADING**

Andrea once again has kindly offered to get a set of plays from Uxbridge library for our annual playreading. It may be a detective play, a romance, restoration comedy, ordinary comedy or a panto. Who knows? It will be whatever is available at the time. Watch this space!

### **Advance notice of March Meetings**

*Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Advice Good and Bad*

*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> march – Music evening – Money makes the world go round !*

### **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**



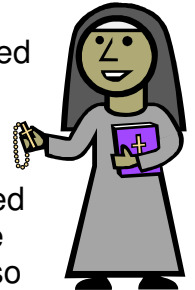
### **BOOK CLUB “ I “ MEETING - 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

The theme for tonight was Irish novels/authors.

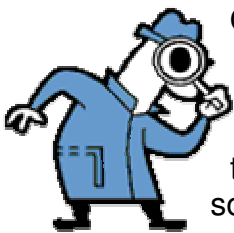
Lucille chose “Night of Rain and Stars” by Maeve Binchy. This was exactly the same format as her other novels with a place and the history and interactions of the characters who live there. The storyline is simple but the style is very descriptive and it's an easy read that can be put down and picked up again without a problem.

Linda read "Black Baby" by Clare Boylan. This was not an easy read and had quite formal language. It starts with a 67 year old spinster who has two nephews but lives entirely alone. She is befriended by a young black lady who cons her into letting her come to live with her as a "daughter". The nephews are not at all happy because they see that their inheritance may be threatened. The black lady falls pregnant and after the birth leaves the spinster literally holding the baby. The woman suffers a stroke and from then on the outcome of the baby is unsure. It was readable but not recommended.

Viv read "The Catalpa Tree" by Denyse Devlin. This was easy to read with good language. It started off in the style of a "chick-lit" but improved. Jade was orphaned at the age of 14 and was sent to board at a convent outside Dublin. Her best friend, Oliver, who was 19 years older than her became her guardian. She lived with him in the holidays together with his wife and young son but he cared for her deeply. She fell in love with him but he was into many relationships. They lived together for a while and spent time in France where there was an Indian bean tree (Catalpa) in the garden. Complications set in involving former lovers and friends so Jade eventually left him.



Louise chose "The Beastly Beatitudes of Balthazar B" by J.P. Donleavy written in 1972. It starts in Trinity College, Dublin in the 1900s. It depicts the life of BB from childhood with stories from school, bullying and his ongoing friendship with the flamboyant Beefy. When he is at university he becomes involved with gambling and women and then enters into an unhappy marriage with a domineering woman. It is written in very flowery Irish language and was uninteresting and humourless with lots of Irish references. It didn't get finished and is certainly not recommended.



Gwyneth read "Better Than A Rest" by Pauline McLynn. This was a good private-eye story set in Dublin about investigating a doctor involved in DNA cases who was doing illegal things. She goes on literary trails around Dublin with her boyfriend. There are some Irishisms and a few mistakes in the continuity but it was recommended. Gwyneth says she will finish it at some point.

Many thanks go to Evelyn for her hospitality and the usual high standards of refreshments.

**Andrea.**

**COMMANDMENTS FOR THE 21st CENTURY OR "GRUMPY OLDISH WOMEN!"**  
**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

A very positive and determined group of us gathered at Sandra's. There was no doubt that we all had very similar views on morals, manners, drivers, passengers and noise!

Greta, who was unable to be with us nevertheless sent in her idea of "Never a borrower nor lender be" (don't lend unless you don't mind not getting "it" back!)

Evelyn :

"Thou shalt not eat in the cinemas, theatre or trains"

"Thou shalt not use the "f" word in conversation"

"Thou shalt have your purse ready at supermarket checkouts" (and remember your pin number!)

"Thou shalt not be looked down upon when walking into a posh fashion shop!"



Linda:

“Thou shalt not put up Christmas decorations before 12 December”

“Thou shalt not spit in the street or make disgusting noises with your nose and throat”

“Thou shalt re-discover the art of queuing for the bus”

Helen:

“Thou shalt not be discourteous” (Helen then gave us a very thorough explanation of the meanings of the word)

“Thou shalt not give way to drivers who show no acknowledgement or people who don't say thank you when doors are opened for them.”



Lucille: (made up her own 10!!)

“Thou shalt not

... chat on a mobile on a train”

...listen to an MP3 player so loud you can hear the beat and not the tune”

...park your car over my driveway”

...drop litter in my front garden”

...chew gum and talk at the same time”

...sit on the train with your bag on the seat beside you”

...play loud music while others are sitting in their garden”

...have TV on when you have company”

...put empty sweet paper wrappers back in the sweet box”

...try to get out of being Local organiser!”

Gwyneth:

“Always use your indicators”

Susan:

“Do not mix business with friendship” (and do not recommend workers!)

Pippa:

“Thou shalt tell your children stories and sing to them”

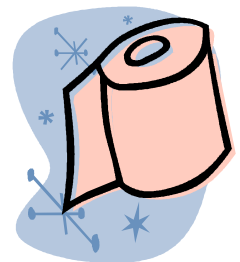
“Respect your children”

“Thou should ban all white vans!!”

Andrea:

“Put back things you move or take out from where they belong”

“Thou shalt replace the toilet roll when the last piece of paper is on the roll” – is what we all agreed on!!



Louise:

“Do not ask leading questions like – “no one wants a cup of tea, do they?”

(or “You'll have had your tea?” said in a Scottish accent by Graeme Garden)

Jackie:

“Thou shall not talk over someone else!!”

We all enjoyed a good discussion on the topics raised, with the usual bursts of laughter, breaking Jackie's commandment, and catching up on all our news.

... “Thou shalt keep to the topic at NWR meetings...” came to mind!?!

Thank you Sandra for your kind hospitality and fresh coffee!!!

**Pippa**

## GARDENING CLUB – 4 DECEMBER – PLANTS IN SONG



This evening had 8 of us thinking of songs with the names of plants in them and bringing along a recording of the song with information about the plant. It worked really well.

Between us we covered the **Holly** and the **Ivy**; **Edelweiss**; **Daisy Daisy** (which we actually all rather tunefully sang); Build me up **Buttercup**; Whispering **Grass** ( the Wurlitzer version !); Blue **Orchids**; Peel me a **Grape**; the **Olive Tree**; Don't sit under the **Apple Tree** and **Tobacco Road**.

Among the interesting facts about the various plants was:

- Ivy is poisonous to humans but an important food for birds
- Holly is used to make white chess pieces (ebony for black ones since you ask!)
- The original name for daisy was “days eye” as it closes at night
- Buttercups cause skin inflammations
- There are 9-10,000 species of grass
- The name orchid comes from the Latin word for testicle – orchis - and was thought to be a cure for various sexual problem
- Unripe olives are green. The ripe ones are black
- The World's biggest producer of apples is China
- Tobacco is the most widely grown cultivated crop in the World.

Two more tunes were played to herald the arrival of Jackie's welcome refreshments – Tea for Two and Black Coffee.

*Louise*

## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES FROM GRETA PORDES

My parents moved to Kingsbury in 1946. There were hardly any Jewish people there. My brother and I went to a nearby school. Most of the children had never seen a Jewish child.

When I was ten my friends and I started a Secret Society (no bullying). We had secret signals, a password and a magazine. I did the illustrations, edited it and wrote most the articles. We had probably read too many Enid Blyton books! We met in my father's back shed. We all lit candles (it was a wonder we did not burn the place down). We ate our buns and gave the secret password. There were four of us.

We followed one of our neighbours around, convinced he was a crook. We noted the comings and goings to his house and reported to each other whenever the lights went on and off. He was probably completely unaware of the children lurking behind his hedges and may have been a law-abiding citizen.

Once we met after school and I had made brown paper hoods with holes for the eyes. We turned our coats round and helped each other to button them down the back. A teacher came along and she must have been startled at the sight of us but we turned tail and ran away.

We went to explore a haunted house. It was a mansion reputed to have been owned by Earl Roberts who fought in the First World War. The house was situated on the corner of Grove Park and Stag Lane, Kingsbury, and has long since been demolished.

We decided to miss the last lesson at school, which was Community Singing with several classes in the Hall. We reasoned we would not be missed. We spent our play-time playing near a hole in the fence and crept out one by one. Our friend Jackie had to turn back as she said her mother was meeting her after school. (Maybe she was scared). That left three of us and, armed with torches, we went to explore the haunted house.

We got in through a window and wandered through the dark, empty rooms until we came to the library. There were no books there, only the spines of books stuck onto the wood. It looked realistic and like a bookcase full of books. We had been told that if you pulled and pushed the bookcase it would swing open to reveal a small SECRET ROOM!

We found the secret room but it was empty except for some old newspapers on the floor, dated 1938 and 1939. Then we heard it. THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! It seemed to be getting nearer! We looked at each other "It's the GHOST!" We all tried to get out of the window at the same time and got stuck. (It was probably the contractors preparing the mansion for demolition).

We three had never run so fast in our lives. We ran back to school (where we were not missed) and vowed never to repeat the experience again.