

W.A.D.D.H.A.M.S

Volume 1, Issue 5

February 2006

Love is in the Air!

Special points of interest:

- WADDHAMS meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at the United Reform Church, Penn Road Wolverhampton. All members and visitors welcome.
- Jennifers of Walsall display at the New Walsall Art Gallery, Gallery Square Walsall, Sunday 12 February, from 12pm to 4pm.

Welcome to the February edition of the Newsletter for WADDHAMS.

The main event for February, as we all know, is Valentine's Day so I will be featuring some history and means of celebrations throughout the eras.

I have decided to try to include a theme for each Newsletter based on the month for this year. For example, April will be Easter, June could be Weddings etc. Let me know if you have any ideas...

Jennifers of Walsall are holding an event on Sunday 12 February at the Art Gallery in Walsall. They should have presentations by Dijon and Sid Cooke Dolls Houses as well as a selection of their own lines and an opportunity to purchase some clearance lines on offer. It is being held at the New Walsall Art Gallery in

Gallery Square from 12pm to 4pm and admission is Free!

I think most of us have probably had some dealings with Jennifer's at some point and I know I found them extremely helpful at the Stafford Fair.

Having spent my first visit at Stafford Fair this month, I can honestly say it exceeded all my expectations! I intended to just spend a couple of hours there as Sunday is such a busy day for me—unfortunately that all went by the wayside when I realized I had only seen a couple of stalls in that time!

Some very exhausting hours and quite a bit of cash later, I finally wrenched myself away, pleased and eager to make a start on all the goodies I had purchased. I was most impressed to show off my purchase of

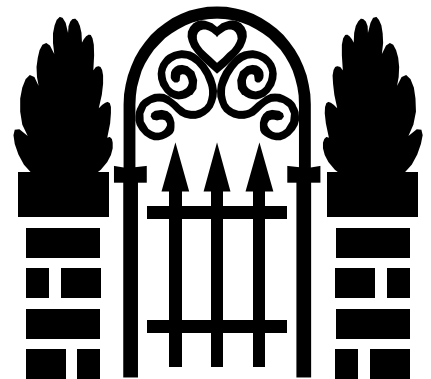


“real glass” at home but my other half couldn't quite see the excitement! Others just don't quite get it do they?!

Michelle

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Caption describing picture or graphic.

January Meeting Review



Although there was a few members that couldn't make it, we welcomed back Sue and Jayne from their holidays and they had some lovely photos to show everyone.

During the brief, they reiterated that we will need some new Committee members very soon and once again asked for Volunteers. Kevin suggested that all volunteer applications should be in for review for the March meeting so could you please express any interest to any current

Committee member as soon as possible?

We had yet more nibbles to make up for December when Sue and Jayne were away. Thanks to everyone for contributing again but we all enjoyed it!

Kevin bought in some fine examples of what you can do with a gift tag and some careful skills along with some blank ones for those people with similar imagination and skills.

Brenda and Ken bought in to show us the fabulous room box that Anne had kindly made them and we all gazed in amazement at the attention to detail and the lovely "oil painting" of Brenda and Ken above the fireplace. I think Anne should start to consider commission work!

Review of Stafford Fair—15 January 2006

I hope some of you managed to make it to the fair in Stafford last month but for those of you who didn't, I have jotted down some of my impressions.

As mentioned earlier, this was my first fair outside the WADDHAMS event so I was unsure of what to expect.

We arrived in good time just for the start and intended to have a "quick look around". What a foolish intention that was—we left at half three!

I was immediately grabbed by the excitement and proceeded to look around "from the beginning". We intended to look at every stall in order but found you were dragged so easily off course by all the wonderful displays. This was the first time I got to see some of the things I have been looking on websites at for months and I wasn't disappointed. There were some lovely specialist stalls such as the Iron-

work by Black County Miniatures and Ray Storey Lighting. My immediate impressions were of how helpful every one was. Being used to just shopping in normal every day large scale department stores with no character or desire to be helpful, I was taken aback with the freedom of advice given by so many people. And it really did help. I am sure I parted with more of my hard earned cash than I intended!

There were some fabulous stalls such as Teepee Crafts, Knight Time Miniatures, and Nicky Bott, all of whom seemed very popular. I particularly like the unusual stalls like the Ironworks, brick products and real wood flooring products where others were very keen on stalls like Teepee Crafts that provided a multitude of tiny items to satisfy the very crafty and inspirational

among us.

Ray Storey had some of the most beautiful lights I have seen and Jennifers of Walsall had the biggest range of wallpapers.

I also found it interesting to see such a diverse set of people who were all obviously passionate the same as we are—there were young and old and male as well as female. You could only begin to imagine the little worlds each person was trying hard to build back at home.

I also had the misfortune to find the dolls house I would most want if I had both the money and space—Ashcombe Manor from The Dolls House Builder. A truly indulgent mansion that is so large, there could be no idea left undone! One day....!!



Ashcombe Manor

Be My Valentine...



Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his crop of potential

soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter --

There are varying ideas about what actually became of Valentine. While some say he was beheaded, others contend that he became sick in prison and died. In 1835, the remains--or what are believed to be the remains--of St. Valentine were given to an Irish priest named Father John Spratt by Pope Gregory XVI, after Spratt impressed the Pope with his passionate preaching during a visit to Rome. The gift, in a black and gold casket, can still be viewed every Valentine's Day at the Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland.

who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France. Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498

A.D. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February -- Valentine's Day -- should be a day for romance.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to

exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending



holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.)

Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

