

Church Prospects Panel Roundup

It's been another busy year with the Gatty Gang - mixing with celebs, tv appearances, power point presentations. We've been up to all sorts and plenty planned for the season ahead. Here's some of what we've been up to:



BBC Look North West Spring Watch (June 09) - starring Sgt Major Scully, Dusty Mears & Miss Eedie McCreddie. We were well excited to hear BBC Spring Watch wanted to film at the India St Back Yard Project. I hardly slept the night before, got up early (well before 9am !) and I made us t-shirts. Turned out it wasn't Bill Oddie's brigade but BBC Look North West. Still any publicitythey're still calling me Rusty Mears at work and complaining at seeing me on tv whilst sat at home trying to have tea!! I was so nervous I couldn't watch it.



The Wall (May 09) - Back in 2008, Sgt Major decided we were re-building the wall in the Gatty compound - it was bowed like a banana, partially collapsed and another frost or 2 would've seen it go. Re-building began with pockets left as bird nesting holes. We finally finished it in May 09 after sourcing stone copings. And whilst Gavin & Weedie were finishing off we'd a family of blue tits nesting in the pockets - brilliant - they weren't bothered at all with the activity. We hope they're back this year.



Energie Kontour (May 09)

Peter Harrison came to our May meeting and we gave him a power point presentation. I'd spent hours working on it - all singing all dancing, the works. Though not quite to plan on the night as the version on my laptop differed to the one at work and my screen went blank. I couldn't stop the thing either once it started when the hecklers at the back started twittering.



Baxenden Allotment & Garden Society Show (Sept 09)

We decided to give it a go, never having entered a show before and not really knowing what to expect or the standards. So Saturday morning saw Sgt Major & Dusty frantically prepping an hour before (some had been at it for days). Could I tie the onion heads..... Last minute we set out our veg. We were like whippets out the traps after judging to see how we'd done - 5x 1st & 2x 2nd prizes. Not bad for a 1st attempt and



looking round the room, we could have confidently entered more categories. Here's Sgt Major with his prize winning grapes (they'd not had grapes entered before). You've never tasted anything like them in your life. So we're looking forward to entering again this year - 4th Sept, Hollins Technical College - why not give it a go yourself.



The Hootenany (Dec 09)

Well what a brilliant evening it was and so sad many more didn't come along. Prospects talents knows no bounds - singing, poetry, mystery and intrigue, guitars, paper all over the floor, etc. I conned Gavin into assisting me with a rendition of Albert & The Lion, with lots of pictures to help tell the story. Little did he know he was featured in it (Albert), along with Capt & Mrs Dangerous (Mr & Mrs Ramsbottom) and Eedie (ferocious and wild). Needless to say we'd not practised and he didn't have a clue what was coming - you could tell! But I thought that added to the drama and surprise. Those who didn't go missed a real talent treat. Thanks again to The Staff for all their organising.



Woodnook Vale Winter Walk (Jan 10)

Despite the weather, Gemma decided to go ahead with the walk. Quite a few turned up too, considering. It was a really enjoyable walk up the old railway track to Baxenden and very picturesque because of the snow. So nice one to Gemma for making an executive decision.



The Hairy Bikers (Feb 10)

I've been stalking them again - I confess I have the evidence - well signatures. I caught up with them April 09 at Blackburn Cathedral filming for their Food Tour of GB. And yours truly, Gavin and the Weedster were on the finished episode. They featured a potato grower in Ormskirk - I can still imaginary taste the spuds they dug up, cooked and ate. We're growing some this year - I hope they're as tasty. The Hairies are touring at the moment with a stage show. I went to see them in Blackburn but couldn't catch them afterwards for a book signing. So yes I stalked them in Burnley. I hung round the stage door, sprung as they came out, got them to sign my books and the interview/article from the Spring 2008 Newsletter. They remembered the event and Dave seemed quite impressed with the article. And I got a kiss of each of them too.



Gorilla Gardening /Prospects Poppies

We been involved with (directly or otherwise) with some gorilla gardening - Abbey Street Planter, Poppies in Mercer Park, the resident's carpark in Gatty - using as much home grown stuff as poss. Good fun it is too transforming grey grott nothing into a colourful splash. We're also well underway with the Prospects Poppies Project which has now become 3 projects - schools poppies, war memorials, HBC poppies meadows. So hopefully by next year there'll be good displays across the Borough to commemorate our Pals - Great Uncle Walter'd be proud.