**WINCLE WI REPORT**

On Tuesday, 1st February, we met for our first meeting of the year, delighted to be able to gather in person – although still carefully, with initial mask wearing and everyone doing an LFT on the day, to maintain a degree of protection for us all. The President welcomed many guests to our meeting, including Susan Leicester our WI Adviser. As a result of our ‘Knitting Challenge’ 6 scarves were completed and will be taken to the Hope Centre in Macclesfield, for use by the homeless.

Our postponed New Year Dinner will now take place on March 8th at The Rose and Crown and our next meeting will be on March 1st when local columnist and dog trainer Vic Barlow, will give a talk on ‘Macclesfield Unplugged’.

Our Spring Cloud Group meeting is on May 4th at The New Life Church, with Tricia Stewart from the original Calendar Girls film, as the guest speaker.

Finally, our guest speaker was warmly welcomed, an actor, racing driver and dancer with most of us recognising Kelvin Fletcher from the ongoing BBC1 Documentary ‘Kelvin’s Big Farming Adventure’, a six part series.

Kelvin spoke to the ladies of Wincle WI about his career to date. He is an actor who has lived on a Wincle farm for the last 12 months with his wife and two young children. He gave us a history of his achievements to date together with video footage of some of his Strictly Come Dancing highlights.

Kelvin was born in Oldham in 1984. He loved acting and role playing from an early age. He joined Oldham Theatre Workshops at the age of 6 and, by 11, his CV was wide. He had acted in South Africa and had appeared in Coronation Street as Andy Hopwood for 3 episodes.

He joined Emmerdale in 1996 (to 2016) and won the Best British Soap Award for an actor at the age of 15. He married his childhood sweetheart, Liz, in 2015 and then decided he would like to try other work, rather than sticking to the safety of Emmerdale.

He took part in 2 films “The Shore” and “We Go in at Dawn”. He also played the Tin Man in the Wizard of Oz at Blackpool which he enjoyed. He then had a period in LA, chasing the Hollywood dream. He found it liberating not to be recognised by anyone in America. However, he came home for a short while and during this time was asked to feature on Strictly Come Dancing. He was a replacement at the last minute for someone who had damaged their ankle. He had to work very hard to remember the steps and the practising was extremely time consuming but he loved the whole experience and amazingly he lifted the Strictly trophy in 2019 with his partner Oti, despite having had no previous dance experience.

The pandemic arrived and so the family decided to stay in the UK. They moved from Oldham to Wincle looking to enjoy family life in the countryside and to take on the challenge of farming. He loves the Wincle community and has been made very welcome. Time ran out to carry on further with his story, but we wish Kelvin well and it will be interesting to see how this next chapter of his life pans out.

S Henshall/ Anne Hooley

For more information about Wincle WI, please contact **Suzanne Henshall (01260 227 209)**. Guests are welcome at all of our meetings, which take place at The Swythamley & Heaton Centre at 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday each month.



