

## Watching with Mother

We were transported back to our childhoods on 25 February, with Kath Reynolds reminding us of the television programmes we watched then. In 1950 the BBC decided to produce children's television programmes to 'educate', followed later by ITV who aimed to 'entertain'. From the black and white 'Muffin the Mule' with Annette Mills, the Wooden Tops and Sooty to colour television in the 1960's through to the 1980's we were reminded of them all. Kath was an enthusiastic speaker and encouraged us to join in singing some of the theme tunes we remembered, especially 'Champion the Wonder Horse'. Probably the best loved of all the children's programmes which began in 1958 and still running today is 'Blue Peter'. This makes it the longest running children's television programme in the world, although initially it was only scheduled for a run of 6 weeks! Who could forget 'one which was made earlier'? Some of us could remember and sing of 'Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble and Grub'. There was also the famous Trumpton fire brigade who were never called upon to put out fires, but rescued many cats in trees. Among all the animal programmes Lassie was a favourite. Interestingly, in the 1850's Elizabeth Gaskell wrote a short story about two brothers and their collie dog, entitled 'Lassie saves the day'. Might this have been the inspiration for the later Lassie? Who can remember Playschool and wondering which window would open to reveal that day's story? For most of us, it would be our children's generation. We ended a really enjoyable evening with Zebedee from the Magic Roundabout telling us that it was now time for bed! What a welcome escape from reality the evening has been. Our next meeting is on March 25, when Clive Katz, will talk on the 'Birmingham Back to Backs'. Our meetings begin at 8pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome.