

Baslow WI's best *EVER* fundraiser:

THE GREAT ESCAPE - STALAG LUFT III

On 12 April 2012 Frank Stone was our guest speaker at a fundraising event supporting Helen's Trust. As an 18 year-old trainee navigator, Frank was shot down on his second bombing mission and eventually ended up in Stalag Luft III - the camp made famous in the classic war movie 'The Great Escape'.

The event was a sell-out attended by the majority of our members with family and many men and women from the local community. Baslow Village Hall was filled to capacity. Frank assisted by his wife Jane presented a fascinating insight into life in a prisoner of war camp, some of the make-shift tools they used and the digging of the tunnels for the 'Great Escape'. A charity event such as this was great promotion for the WI and Baslow's membership numbers increased in the following months.



Frank during filming of the documentary 'Digging the Great Escape'

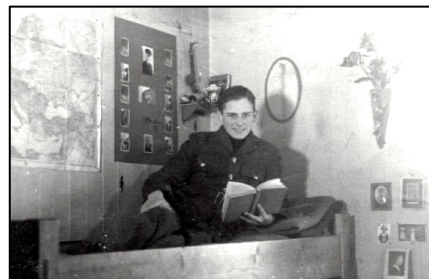


The Baslow WI committee, assisted by other members and their families, put the event together. Tickets were printed and sold around the local area; wine, soft drinks and nibbles were included in the ticket price making the evening start with a bang!

Frank was an excellent speaker, obviously an extremely practical man all his life. The talk was informative and entertaining although sad at times. Frank's wife Jane is a member of both Abney and Baslow WIs.



Frank in centre of photo holding mug taken in the prisoner of war camp Stalag Luft I



Frank on his bunk in Stalag Luft I



Frank with fellow prisoners at the newly built 'more secure' prison Stalag Luft III