**WOW BITES BIOGS**

**SATURDAY 12pm – 1pm**

**Claire Birkenshaw Trans Head Teacher**

**Leanne Beetham Mouth artist**

**Suzanne Clisby State of Girls Rights in UK**

**Dr Suzanne Clisby**

Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences and Director of Postgraduate Gender Studies in the School of Education and Social Sciences at University of Hull. Teaching and research interests, lie primarily in gender, development, feminist theory and methodologies and social policy.

**Claire Birkenshaw - Headteacher at Ashwell Academy in Bransholme**

Claire Birkenshaw – formerly known as Michael – believes she is the only serving head-teacher in the country to transition from male to female while in post.

Late last year after six months away from the job, Claire returned to school – and hopes to inspire young people going through similar issues.

She says she is really proud to live and work in the city and be a role model to young people

Here she is to tell us more

**Leanne Beetham**

Leanne is a mouth artist, living in Hull. She was born with a condition known as Arthrogyrposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC). This condition meant she would never be able to use her arms or walk. Consequently, Leanne has adapted to using her mouth to do most daily tasks, including creating artworks, which she has been creating since she was 3 years old. Since childhood, she has had an affinity for animals, and her two passions have naturally combined.

In 2004, Leanne became a student artist for the "Association of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists"

Leanne graduated in 'BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Behaviour & Training' at Bishop Burton College.

**WOW BITES – SUNDAY**

(not a WOW Bite) **Dr Comfort Momoh MBE** **1pm - 1.30pm**

Dr Comfort Momoh, MBE, BSc, MSc, FRCM FGM/Public Health Specialist with extensive experience of holistic women centred care. A researcher of women’s health and a strong campaigner/supporter against Domestic Violence and for the eradication of FGM. She received award from the Queen of England as a Member of British Empire (MBE) in 2008 for services for women’s Health and Honorary Doctorate Degree same year from The Middlesex University.

**WOW Bites 12.30pm – 1.30pm**

**Lian Bell #WakingTheFeminsts**

Lian Bell is a freelance set designer and project manager for the arts living in Dublin. Last year she unexpectedly spearheaded #WakingTheFeminists, a major campaign in Ireland for equality for women in theatre.

**Nancy Birtwhistle**

Born, raised and educated in Hull and surrounding area. Married and had children in my 20s, qualified to compete at Crufts dog obedience in my 30s, studied at Hull University and obtained an MBA in my 40s. Retired from a 32 year NHS career in my 50s and won GBBO at 60. What next ?

**Dr Karen Briggs MBE**

**Val Wood**

Val Wood is a much loved author of historical romantic novels. She has written 22 novels, all set in and around the city of Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. Val was born is Castleford but now lives in the market town of Beverley.

Her first novel, The Hungry Tide, was published in 1993 after winning the Catherine Cookson Prize for Romantic Fiction. Val has released many novels including, The Doorstep Girls that have been named in The Sunday Times best-seller list.

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