

Last Meeting

Monday 10th November

AGM - All Change!

Gill and Mary resigned from their respective roles as President and secretary after 4 and 5 years' service respectively. Gill has now moved on to her new role as an Adviser. They were presented with a centenary brooch in appreciation of their efforts. Pam Simpson took over the duties of the voting from that point. Pat Henderson was duly voted in as the next President, with Joyce Dalglish as Vice President, Helen Sloan will be secretary and Barbara Alker is to continue as Treasurer. The rest of the committee remains unaltered. Pat and her committee then had a brief meeting whilst the members availed themselves of the bargains on the craft and 'Bring and Buy' stall. £70 was raised for WI funds.

Next Meeting

Monday 9th February 2015, 'A history of Wigan.' Talk by Alex Miller from Wigan Archive Services. Competition; a Legal Document.

Christmas Party

Monday 8th December at Hindley Hall Golf Club.



On the 8th December we returned to Hindley Golf Club to celebrate another Christmas Party. The meal was delicious and the atmosphere quite festive. Guests from our 3 Beacon group partners expressed their appreciation of an enjoyable evening, joining in with the usual sing – along with the rest of us! The secret Santa sack provided each of us with a gift and excellent raffle prizes sealed the evening for many. Norma Walker was delighted to win the Christmas hamper. Mary Hart and Pam Melling were overall winners of the monthly competition prizes. 9 other members took home a runner-up prize. The evening can justly be declared a success and we are all looking forward to a Happy New 2015; the Centenary year of the WI and our own 60th Birthday. Barbara Alker

St. Elizabeth Festival of Christmas Trees

11th – 14th December



This was a great success with minimal effort thanks to the support of members supplying lots of blue decorations to festoon the white tree which was also volunteered for the event. Mary and Gill had the pleasant task of decorating the tree. Mary assumed the more onerous task of its removal and returning all the decorations back to the owners in time for their own festivities. The church looked

lovely with 20+ trees supplied by local groups and activities. They held a Christmas concert in the church which created a wonderful festive atmosphere and an opportunity to display the church in all its glory.

Woodfield CP School Christmas Market

Saturday, 29th November. 1 - 5pm. Helen and I arrived at Woodfield School to find that the WI booking had not been confirmed and all the tables had been allocated. What a start! However the WI is not to be beaten and set up our stall in a corner in the craft room with mini tables for the children, with the face painter, the tattooist and even Santa's Grotto. Even though I say it myself our £1.00 display was very effective and we accepted compliments with good grace! Some of the labels on the potted bulbs had disintegrated so we had a box full of "surprise surprise" bulbs. The angels were a great success and we could have sold many more. Eh ho! Finally after a well-deserved turkey barm and a cup of tea we came away tired but happy with £55.00. Sheila S.

Friends of Haigh Christmas Market

Sunday 14th December. On Sunday we were invited to hold a fund raising stall at



Haigh Hall Christmas Market. Glenys and I arrived about ten o'clock and began to set up in our usual spot, closely followed by Mary and then Glenda. In spite of the weather being really horrible the event was very well attended, at one stage there were long queues for the parking ticket machines. The queue for Santa was huge and remained so all day, lots of fun was had on the ice rink, donkey rides and in the Punch and Judy Show, along with live music and lots stalls. We raised £118 in all and gave our usual donation to Friends of Haigh Hall. Many thanks to all who donated, we couldn't do it without you. Hilda

LFWI Trip to Tatton Park



On Wednesday 3rd December, five of our members travelled with ladies from Lancashire

Federation (3 coaches full) to Tatton Park. The day was bright and sunny but very cold. We had a tour of the mansion which was decorated in The



Nutcracker Theme, and the decorations were beautiful and interesting.

After lunch we visited the speciality shops and of course we bought some Nutcracker Christmas decorations. We had a look at the award winning gardens but as it was winter, there was nothing growing outside except some lettuces. As the weather was very cold we decided to visit the conservatory which has recently undergone



restoration work to restore it to its original plan. The Fernery has an extensive collection of ferns and tree ferns from

New Zealand and Australia. We sat on a bench, had a good warm and were entertained by a beautiful Robin.



Gill Entwistle and Anne

Luncheon Group at Truly Scrumptious

Friday 21st November. Pat's elevation to President, and her 65th Birthday; not to mention her impending trip across the pond made this a lunch to be celebrated in style. Truly rose to the occasion and managed to fit a table for 20+ into the tea shop whilst still making room for other customers – which is quite a feat! Lunch, tea and cake was enjoyed by all, Truly love having us there as we create such a happy atmosphere with



plenty of laughter and chatter. This was a surprise party for Pat – none of us have ever seen her speechless for so long! Not to panic; once she had got over the shock of seeing how many members had taken time to share her celebration with her she didn't stop.... Well eating cake was the exception. Good luck Pat in your new role as President I know we are in safe hands.

Lancashire Day

27th November
This year Parbold WI hosted the Lancashire Afternoon day at Parbold Village Hall. We were entertained with songs and amusing tales from a folk Group 'Trouble at Mill'. A very pleasant afternoon with plenty of cake, quizzes and chat; only marred by the fact some of the songs were from Yorkshire!!!
Mary



Gaslight WLT

Wednesday 26th November
Along with some of the ladies from the W.I. I have just spent a very entertaining and intriguing evening in a Victorian sitting room! Albeit in The Wigan Little Theatre the play was called Gaslight, as the gaslights in the room dimmed and brightened the scene was set for murder, robbery and intrigue. It was very well acted throughout, although I wish the extremely timid Mrs Manningham could have thumped her husband!!!!!! (Sorry ladies just my opinion and perhaps Avril's!!) Hope the ladies who couldn't make it tonight are soon feeling better. Glenys

Clayton le Woods Carol Concert

Thursday 18th December.
If you weren't full of Christmas spirit before the concert you can rely on Clayton singers to reverse the trend. This is always an enjoyable evening with the perfect blend of traditional, classical songs like 'Nisan dorma' a beautiful soprano solo, to the well-known and much loved carols and the frankly frivolous and fun festive songs with a plentiful sprinkling of readings for good measure. We even have the opportunity to join in. The evening ends with drinks and mince pies and the opportunity to meet and chat with WI friends.

Trips and Outings

I suggest this month we combine walking group and luncheon group with a short walk to see the snowdrops followed by lunch at Gerard Arms on Wednesday 28th January. Members welcome to do either or both. Once I know who is interested I'll arrange times.

Coach outing to Llanfair PG to visit where the first WI was held. This would take place later in the year when the weather is more clement but we need to know that there is sufficient interest to book a coach.

Theatre Dates

In order to have good seats at matinee performances at a reasonable price I have forward booked several performances at the Octagon and the Lowry.

In chronological order:-
FEBRUARY 2015.
Wed 4th February 2.00pm Octagon 'A View From The Bridge'
MARCH 2015.
Wed. 11th March 2.00pm Octagon 'Hindle Wakes'
Wed. 11th March 7.30 WLT 'Side Effects'
Wed 18th March 2.00pm Lowry 'Oklahoma'
APRIL 2015.
Wed 8th April 2.00pm Octagon 'Private Lives'
Thursday 16th April 2.00pm Lowry 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'
Wed. 22nd April 7.30 WLT 'Oliver Twist'
MAY 2015.
Wed 20th May Lowry 2.00pm 'To Kill a Mocking Bird'
Wed. 27th May 7.30 WLT 'Quartet'
JUNE 2015
nothing planned as yet
JULY 2015 Wed. 1st July 7.30pm WLT 'Sweet Charity'
Lots more suggestions in Pat's file for theatres. Craft shows

LFWI News

Spring Council Meeting is at The Floral Hall Southport on Thursday 12th March.
The County Show will be held on 23rd & 24th Sept., the Preview dinner is on 22nd, again at the Garstang County Club Hotel.

Aspull and Haigh will be sending a delegate to the Centenary National Council Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall (with Standish) on 4th Jun 2015. Observer tickets may be available £22 + all travel exp.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

C/date. 12/1. The Public affairs committee invite you to a presentation of LETTUCE, GHERKIN. BACON & TOMATO? A Tasty sandwich? Not really..... It is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. Gain an insight into the difficulties faced every day by those who live outside what is regarded as normal sexuality. The date is Thursday 5th Feb. 2015, at Leyland Office, 2pm to 4pm. Cost £5 this includes tea/coffee and cake.

C/date 19/1. Attention all Bingo, Dominoes and Scrabble fans, the Leisure Activities committee, have arranged a GAMES EVENING, on Wed. 18th Feb. 2015 at Barton Village Hall, Barton Preston. 7.30pm start. Cost £5 including refreshments

C/date 22/1. Wednesday 11th Feb. or Saturday 14th Feb. 2015 there is a workshop to Recycle/upcycle bags using old jeans. At Leyland office, 10 am to 3.30pm Cost £18, more information and articles you need to bring on the leaflet.

C/date: 27/02: Beginners Dressmaking Workshop on Wednesday 11th March + Saturday 14th March. To be held at Leyland Office. 10.00am – 3.30pm both days. Bring own lunch. Drinks/biscuits provided. Cost £18

C/date: 11/03: Visit to Jodrell Bank. Outing organised by LFWI Public Affairs Sub-Committee on Tuesday 24th March. Cost £26 – Admission charge, lunch/drinks and talk by expert. See leaflet on table.

Tickets available from 23 Feb' 15. St. Helens + Ladies in Harmony WI Choir @ Ormskirk School on Saturday 11 April @ 7.30pm. Tickets £7.00.

C/date: 02/04: LFWI Arts and Craft Sub-Committee are holding Intro to Bead-Netting workshop on 24th and 25th April LFWI Offices. Cost £8. Bring own lunch, drink/biscuits provided.

C/date: 06/03: Visit to Pennine Lancs. Museums organised by LFWI Tours + Excursions Sub Comm. Wednesday 22nd April. Cost £22. Good café/restaurant facilities.

Hotpot

Hotpot subscriptions are now due £4.50 for the year, list is on the table

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS



January
2015