

February 2015

As you are aware there has been a change of officers recently and I want to ensure that everyone knows who to ask for help if they need it.

Pat. Henderson-- President

Helen Sloan ---- Secretary

Sue Fernside will take minutes at meetings, any queries regarding minutes to her please.

Barbara Alker --- Treasurer

Joyce Dalglish -- Vice President, who will collate items for inclusion in our newsletter which will continue to be edited by Gill Brown whose husband Rob will print for us. Please help them by being willing to do brief write ups and taking photos when attending events. We all love to hear what's been happening within our W.I.

Doreen Hartley will organise our raffles. I hope you'll continue to help by donating items to be used as prizes.

Mary Hart has agreed to be our Welfare Officer, so if you know of anyone unwell or in hospital or with an important birthday or anniversary coming up please inform her. She is also our programmes secretary and suggestions for next year's speakers are welcome.

Marlene Winward is the committee member who will receive your "pennies" for ACWW and is willing to explain about this to members. There's a container out at every meeting for donations.

Pam Melling has agreed to continue organising our refreshment .It would help her greatly if you make sure you know when it's your turn to provide our cakes. Again there's a container out for your contributions to defray cost of tea, milk, sugar etc. We no longer receive tea free from sponsors.

Gill assisted by Jo and Pam have said they'll organise entries for county show this year. The theme is "More than Jam and Jerusalem" Mary has the Schedule. Please be willing to enter as each entry gains a point!!

Maureen Dittman is our "Hostess with the mostest" and opens her home to us each month for our committee meetings which apart from her warm hospitality saves us the cost of hiring a room. She also is a long standing member and a valuable source of knowledge concerning previous years.

I hope members will find this helpful but please be aware that you can still always ask any committee member for information and can contact me by phone, mobile or email.

Regards Pat. Henderson.

A&HWI Worldwide!

As part of our 60th Birthday celebration we have gone global with the launch of our new website! It has taken a long time to get to this point; Doreen went on a LFWI training day, but we were dissatisfied with the website that they were suggesting as we felt it was already outdated, difficult to put together and hard to manage. Honorary member Rob Brown came to the rescue and built a new website for us that we know will stand the test of time. It will serve members well as they will be able to read the newsletter online, programme for the year, and keep up to date with the latest news on the blog page. It will also be a useful way of attracting new members.

You can find the new website by using a search for Aspull and Haigh WI or by typing the address in your browser. www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk.

Last Meeting

Monday 12th January
A&M Florists



"Big oaks from little acorns grow" are fitting words to describe how from small beginnings, starting with presents from family and friends, a flourishing business grew. "Angela and her mum" (aka A & M Flowers of Haigh Hall) provide fresh and silk flowers, are Venue & Event Dressers and hold the titles North West Wedding Awards Finalist 2014 and County Brides Finalist 2014.

Being diagnosed with ME as a young woman meant

"Angela" was unable to continue with her job at the Tax Office. After a couple of years at home and starting to feel a little better, the challenge was on to find something which would give her a purpose and help fill the long hours. After countless suggestions, flower arranging came up trumps as it could be done in a small space and wasn't too taxing. Besides which, it was something they both found enjoyable and - although unknown at the time - the proverbial seeds were sown! Hence the request to bring to the meeting, a cup and saucer - the exact same tools these very talented ladies started out with. Our oasis was measured, cut and soaked in cold water for a few seconds before being pressed into our cup. Next we were

directed to place our first piece of greenery in the centre of the oasis (always start in the middle) before covering the remainder



with more leaves. With as few as four small carnations and a couple of sprigs of gypsophila, I was thrilled with my



finished arrangement and even more thrilled when I see it decorating my kitchen windowsill.

Glenda Fletcher

Competition



1st Gill Brown, 2nd Sharon Lowe, 3rd Val Bennett

Next Meeting

Monday 9th March 2015,
'Prinny Pots.' Flower Pots with a difference, Talk and demonstration by Yvonne Pinder.
Competition; Home Grown Plant.

The Federation Quiz

January 26th 2015

How lovely it was to be asked to join our WI Quiz team for the event on January 26th - thank you Helen - and to know that we were joining over 1300 other W.I. members in the North West all busily quizzing at the same time.

We were all looked after so well by Pat who put us in our teams and provided water and much needed chocolate to keep us going. Of course, there were splendid refreshments provided by Parbold W.I. The three Aspull and Haigh teams didn't win - and some did better than others - but we all learnt something throughout the evening. Much discussion and laughter went into our efforts and I certainly learned that I had to have the courage of my convictions - lots of our answers weren't put down which turned out to be correct! An interesting observation was made by the organisers who mystifyingly deemed that our particular group were farmers' wives as we correctly answered that a cow who hadn't given birth was a heifer!

I had a fun and entertaining time - so a big thank you to my team mates, and fellow W.I. members for making me feel so welcome.

Anne Couchman

LFWI Mosaic Workshop



Anne and Gill attended a LFWI mosaic workshop at Croston House on Thursday 22nd January.

Nine ladies took part and we all sat together around a large table. The tutor was Patience Cooper and she gave an in-depth demonstration on how to complete a mosaic tile. First of all we copied the shape of our picture via carbon paper onto the tile. We then drew flow lines to make sure our tiles would look even. We had to cut the tiles using different types of cutters. We then stuck them onto our ready drawn picture. When the tiles were dry we grouted them. Patience certainly lived up to her name, she was wonderful and helped us all when we were unsure what to do. All the ladies were very friendly and the conversation flowed about their Women's Institutes. One lady from Knott End was a retired Police Inspector who had worked in Liverpool. She entertained us with stories of when she was on the beat. A good day was had by all. Anne and Gill

LFWI Scrabble Afternoon

Games of chance were never my strong point! In a game of scabble you need to pick the right letters to get a good score and I could see no way of achieving that with 3 E's, 2A's, 2U's and V. I had been quite confident when Pat told me there were valid words such as Qi, qit, id, and od but somehow there was just nowhere to utilise my new found



knowledge. This didn't in anyway stop me from having a good time and enjoying the afternoon. After all what's not to like; good company, plenty of cake, tea and lots of laughter. We certainly weren't in the winning category where they attained heady scores that led to totals in the 600's but Pat, Barbara, Pam and myself certainly



enjoyed the experience. Pat had to be admired, with her eye firmly on the prize (she's been before) she determined to get the lowest score to win chocolate. What a star!
Gill

Snowdrop Walk and Lunch

The weather wasn't predicted to be clement with cold, wind, snow and rain forecast, but the intrepid few decided to brave the elements for a walk with the promise of lunch to sustain us. We enjoyed a lovely half



hour being shown the various snowdrops and aconites in a gentleman's garden before our walk in Borsdane woods. Most of you will realise that it is quite sheltered in the woods with steep banks either side to protect us from wind and cold and we were fortunate that the snow held off until we were back in the warmth of Gerrard Arms pub. Everyone agreed that it had been a lovely day; the exercise had given us both an appetite and the excuse to indulge ourselves. What better than to sit in the warm enjoying lovely food watching a blizzard outside..... What good timing!

LFWI LGB & T Debate

Helen and I attended this informative event. Neither of us were sure what to expect or how we would react. The original speaker was ill and unable to attend but worthy replacements were found. The first was a serving policeman with responsibilities for hate crime in Lancashire and the second was a 'trans' charity worker. Both men spoke with clarity and conviction. There was plenty of talk, debate and questions. The most concern, from the floor, was the presumed necessity by the speakers 'to come out'. As one very brave member pointed out no one was interested in her sexual life so why should we be forced to be aware of others! There was a lot of concern and sympathy shown for Trans gender problems; when someone, often children are trapped in a body that doesn't feel right. Certainly nothing was said that 'shocked' if anything I think we gave the speakers plenty to reflect on; the WI was not as narrow minded as perhaps they anticipated.

Trips and Outings

Coach outing to Llanfair PG to visit where first W I 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;-

Thursday 26th February. 'Oh what a Lovely War'. Opera House. Matinee.

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

Dates for your diary from LFWI

MARCH

LFWI COUNCIL MEETING

Southport Theatre Thur. 12 March

10.45 - 3.30. Doors open 9.30. Lunch: 12.30-2.00.

Return to hall 1.45

Grab a bag £7.50 available in the hall or we'll book Swan Restaurant

C/Date Friday 27/02

BEGINNERS DRESSMAKING @ Croston Hs.

Wednesday 11 March and Saturday 14 March '15. 10.00-3.30 both days. Cost £18

C/Date Friday 27/02

JODRELL BANK - Trip by Public Affairs Comm.

Tue. 24 Mar. Cost £26 incl.adm/soup+sand. Lunch

APRIL

Tickets available from Mon. 23/02

LADIES IN HARMONY WI CHOIR + ST. HELENS CHOIR

Ormskirk School, Wigan Rd. Ormskirk. Saturday 11th April @ 7.30pm. Tickets £7.00

C/Date: Fri. 06/03

TOWNLEY HALL & QUEEN ST. MILL TEXTILE MUSEUM

Wednesday 22nd April. Cost £22.00

C/Date Thur. 02/04

LFWI - Arts and Craft Sub-Committee

AN INTRODUCTION TO BEAD NETTING

Fri 24th April + Sat. 25th April. 10.00 - 3.30pm @ Croston Hs. Cost £18

C/Date Fri 17/04

AGENDA CONFERENCES

Leyland Meth. Hall, Turpin Green Lane. Tue 28th April - 10.00am for 10.30 - 12.00noon

C/Date 10/04

WALK FROM CALDERVALE

Sat. 25th April - Start 10.30am from Village Hall? Cost: £2 Bring packed lunch.

MAY

C/Date 1/05

NEEDLE FELTING:

Venue: Croston House. 10am - 3.30pm. Tea @ coffee provided. Cost £18

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN
Aspull & Haigh
NEWS



February
2015

Newsletter content by Joyce Dalglish and WI

Members, diary and dates by Helen Sloan

Edited by Gill Brown

Newsletter also available on our website:

www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk