

Last Meeting



A Glimpse behind the Scenes at BBC Radio Lancashire

At the May Meeting we were visited by John Clayton, Managing Editor at Radio Lancashire. He gave us a most humorous account of his life in Radio. He was first introduced to the joys of radio as a child, hearing 'Listen with Mother' on a huge Bakelite radio that had pride of place in his home. In later years he decided that, as a career as a rock star was out of the question, he would get behind the microphone on radio instead!

His first job was with Radio Piccadilly, and he told us how excited he was to be offered a spot from 2-6, only to find it was 2-6am! He has moved since then, and has worked with some of the top names in radio, such as Paul Gambuccini, and has met some major celebrities. He told us about the time he and Mike Sweeney were flown out to Paris to interview Mick Jagger, and the first question Mike asked Mick was about the drug-taking!

John also told us the hilarious tale of an interview with the Icelandic minister, who was visiting the area. Unfortunately John had not thought to check that the minister spoke English well, or that Mike Sweeney knew which country the minister was from, so that the interview was a fiasco.

John is very passionate about the value of local radio stations, to keep people in touch with the issues that affect us in our communities. He has now been involved with Radio Lancashire since 1994 and reckons it's the best of jobs. You can hear him on Friday nights at 10pm, as he co-produces FNAT, a rock channel. John treated us to a wonderfully entertaining evening and we certainly gave our laughter muscles plenty of exercise!!

Pam

Competition Results

1st Mary Hart, 2nd Margaret Halliwell, 3rd Pam Melling

Next Meeting

Monday 13th July 2015, Stroll and Strawberries'. Competition; ACWW 'Wild Flowers in a Jam Jar'

Tribute

We were saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Green. Although this lady was no longer well enough to come to WI she was a member for many years and remembered with fondness by many of us. Several of us attended her funeral and her many achievements not least her commitment to St. Katherine's Church at Blackrod spoke volumes of this lady's service to her community. Pat Henderson

Buckingham Palace

Imagine the sight, 8,000 ladies dressed to impress all queuing patiently to enter Buckingham Palace. Armed police were on patrol with guns prominent but nothing could mar the air of expectation and 'bon homie' of the WI. Everyone was there to soak up the atmosphere and revel in being part of such a huge celebratory party. Once inside the beautiful gardens crowds were massed around the royal walkway and everyone was chatting and laughing. Summer had at last arrived; perhaps our absolute faith



paid off as the clouds were chased by a gusting wind and the sun shone. Hats soared chased by all and sundry with much applause when caught and returned to owners – yet another opportunity to talk to another new friend. Nothing prepared us for the excitement and satisfaction of being part of this event and what fun we had admiring the fashion. Practically everyone looked so elegant with a wealth and variety of styles with so many bright colours. Of course there was the occasional 'strange' outfit – how pleased we were that ours were

homemade so we didn't have to play 'snap' when confronted by an identical dress. The band played. The Beefeaters marched, everyone paraded. The food was delicate and delicious, no crusts on the Queens Sandwiches and yes some were cucumber! The cakes were dainty with a good selection, including a Victoria sandwich and little square chocolate cake complete with a chocolate drop on top emblazoned with a gold crown. Ice-cream was also handed out and Barley water to prevent us from dehydrating. Later after the royal party had left we were allowed to take some photos (well put it this way, when the security saw our cameras they smiled and walked away so they couldn't see us). All too soon the National Anthem and Jerusalem were played; our cue to leave. Naturally we left by the furthest exit so we could wander once more by the lake, through the rose garden, and admire the Azaleas. What a truly unforgettable day. Gill

AGM at Albert Hall



We were privileged in our Centenary year to have Her Majesty the Queen, the Princess Royal and the Countess of Wessex in attendance at the AGM at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The singing of the National Anthem and Jerusalem was AWESOME. As your delegate I was fortunate to be seated only 11 rows back from the stage so had an excellent view. The Queen seemed genuinely moved by the welcome she received and it was touching to see how Princess Anne and Sophie appeared to care for her just as any daughter and daughter in law would. Her short address highlighted the many changes over the 100 years since WI's formation. Our centenary baton arrived to a fanfare on a cushion surrounded by all the federation badges jointly carried in by a member from the first WI and one of the newly formed WI's from West Midlands. Having been presented with posies containing the centenary rose and having themselves presented cups and certificates the Royal Party left the stage. Lucy Worsley gave an amusing and informative talk on the history of WI, watch out for her programme due out soon entitled Cake Bakers and Trouble Makers!!

On now to the real business of the resolution!! This year's resolution that, 'This meeting calls on HM government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing' was proposed and seconded with ladies speaking for and against it. This was followed by an amendment to the wording which after discussion was accepted. There then came a motion to move on to next business with many speakers giving such impassioned addresses to the meeting that this was carried. Therefore ladies we do not have a resolution at all in our centenary year leaving many people around me somewhat shell-shocked! Democracy in action! After lunch we had singing from the winners of the choir competition addresses from Baroness Grey Thompson and Helena Morrissey CBE. I made lots of notes and am more than happy to offer a fuller account to any member. Pat

Crown Green Bowling Resumes

1st Crown Green Bowling Session of the Season 12th May 2015 After spending a couple of months expending our energies on ensuring a successful outcome of our Beacon Group meeting it was good to get out in the fresh air for a game of crown green bowling. As I recall from the day, the air was very fresh, the wind howled around the green as we bowled and the sun peeped out occasionally from behind black rain filled clouds. Although the weather wasn't really ideal, members who joined us were well wrapped up against the elements, had brought their own bowling equipment, played with enthusiasm and appeared to enjoy the whole experience. As is sometimes the case at these event's I do believe more socializing went on than bowling, with more bowling balls ending up in the gulleys around the edge of the green, than stayed on the green itself. To those members who have always wanted to learn but don't feel

confident to have a go, why not come along to one of our future sessions as observers. Come on, join us, what have you got to lose, it's free and its fun. Joyce Dalgliesh

The Ancient Secret of Youth and the Five Tibetans



Wednesday 13th May six members travelled to Bolton Octagon to watch 'The ancient secret of youth and the 5 Tibetans.' It was a lovely sunny day, Pat as usual had pre booked a table for lunch, thank you Pat, so we had a good old natter before the play began. The 5 Tibetans are a series of yoga type moves promising a return to youth. We all thought this play was a comedy, there were some laughs, especially when the two young actors took the place of two of the originals actors who had followed the 5 Tibetan rules. The play also had a dark undercurrent which was I found quite unnerving the acting was superb especially Denise Welch and Eric Potts. Despite the play not being as funny as expected we all had a good day out and left the theatre with plenty to think about.

Doreen Kay

Walking Treasure Hunt, Chorley



On Tuesday 19th May Glenys drove Pat, Pam and myself to Chorley for the walking treasure hunt. We arrived in good time and although it was market day we managed to find a parking spot easily enough. The meeting point was upstairs in the Sir Henry Pub by the market where we were joined by Doreen, who lives in Chorley. Registration done and clues issued, we set off to the Soldiers Monument, across the flat iron, for our first clue. Then over to town hall and off into Chorley proper, solving clues as we went. Into the park, round the

back streets and down into the town, we walked. The weather was mostly kind, only one decent downpour but we managed to stop our clue papers from disintegrating completely, although the ink did get a little runny. The second rainy spell saw us back to the pub with all but one clue solved, in time for a restorative coffee before the results were in.

Winners - 30 pts Lostock Hall

2nd - 29 pts Ribby with Wrea

We scored a creditable 27½ and although a little soggy had a lovely morning and a great laugh at times. Just a pity the weather wasn't a lot better and we didn't get the last anagram.

Hilda Newton

To Kill A Mocking Bird

Based on the novel by Harper Lee and adapted for the stage by Christopher Sergel, To kill a Mockingbird was our theatre outing to the Lowry this month. We were unsure how this would work as a play and certainly during the first act a knowledge of the book helped understand what was happening. The second act which deals with the trial was gripping even though you knew the outcome you were caught up in the courtroom drama being played out. I think we all agreed that on balance this was well worth seeing.

Pat

Heaton WI Coffee Morning



Wednesday 3rd June '15. Mary, Glenys, Marilyn, Hilda and myself accepted the invitation to Heaton WI's Coffee Morning. As always the members did us proud. The stalls were really quite something – full of ideas to raise much needed funds. We feasted on homemade cakes - drank tea and coffee from china cups - waited with bated breath for the raffle to produce the 'correct' numbers it didn't!!

Despite this setback we had a lovely time chatting with the WI ladies and re-living with Hilda one of her 'disastrous' holidays which strangely we found quite hilarious! Helen Sloan

WLT - Quartet

The play was written by Ronald Harwood, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Commander of the British Empire. The director was Jim Stirrup a member of WLT for over 40 years. "Quartet" opens with an introduction to a group of aging opera singers and set in a retirement home for musicians. As the story unfolded it appeared that individuals in the group, prior to retirement, had performed together at various times throughout their successful careers. As residents they became involved in planning a grand concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday which was to give them an opportunity for the group to sing together again. One or two members of the group voiced their concerns about performing together but the concert eventually went ahead as planned with some degree of success. In conclusion, I felt this play was well presented, charming and humorous. It also gave me food

for thought about age related issues and the importance of enjoying life as best you can, no matter what age you are? Serious stuff, think I've must have been inspired or is that what is termed as having a senior moment?

Joyce Dalgliesh

Aspull, Haigh & Blackrod Agricultural Show

The show takes place on the Windmill field on Sunday 16th August. As you know we try to support this event as much as we can with particular emphasis on the craft tent. The schedule for the crafts and baking can be downloaded from their website www.haighshow.com or contact Mary or Ann Couchman. An added point of interest this year will be to watch Sue take part in the side saddle demonstration.

Happy Birthday

We would like to say 'Happy Birthday' to Connie and Eileen, who are celebrating this month.

Trips and Outings

Booked / Planned.

Wed 10th June matinee at the Octagon to see Noises Off

Wed 1st July 7.30pm WLT. Musical Sweet Charity

Thursday 30th July - Day Out to Toll House Museum and Plas Cadnant gardens

Couple of places still available.

Thursday 3rd September - Day Out to WI Centennial Fair at Harrogate

All places on minibus now taken but as this is open to the public members, family, friends may wish to make their own arrangements to attend on any of the days (Thurs. 3rd - Sun6thSept.)

Wednesday 20th January 2016 matinee at the Lowry to see The Girls which is a new musical written by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth inspired by the story of the "Calendar Girls"

I have reserved tickets for this and have had a list out for a while with several of you having requested and paid me for tickets. Please let me know urgently if anyone else requires a ticket as I'll be contacting the Lowry this week.

Please continue to give me suggestions for outings, theatre, cinema etc. as my tastes are not necessarily yours. I'll have leaflets info. Etc. out on the table and in my file for your perusal.

The programme for 2015/2016 season at the Octagon is now available-

Also the 2015/2016 WLT programme is now available. Please take a look and let me know if you wish me to again book season tickets for you. Again please, please let me know before I commence my yearly battle with WLT!!!!

Pat Henderson

Dates for your diary from LFWI

GALA DINNER & PREVIEW EVENING COUNTY SHOW

Menu available. Price: £22

C/Date: Monday 7 September '15

LFWI COUNTY SHOW TICKET APPLICATION

Dates: Wed. 23rd and Thursday 24 Sept.

Times: Wed. 10.00 – 9.00 – Thur. 10.00 – 6.00pm

Venue: Best Western Garstang Country Hotel.

Price: Advance Tickets £4 – Admission on Door £5

Details on table.

C/Date: Tuesday 1 September '15.

BETTY SANDERSON MEMORIAL TROPHY 2015

A wall hanging to illustrate any WI activity to be entered and judged at the County Show see above.

JULY

LOVE FOOD, HATE WASTE

Venue: Scarisbrick Village Hall

Date: Monday 6th July 15. Time 2.00–4.00pm

Cost £6 incl. tea and coffee

C/Date: Thursday 11th June '15

BUBBLES+BRASS @ RIVINGTON BARN

Venue: Rivington Barn

Date: Tuesday 14th July

Time 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Cost: £17 incl. canapés + sparkling bubbly!

C/Date: Thursday 11th June '15

AUGUST

BE INSPIRED ON YOUR BIKE – WORKSHOP

Venue: UCLAN Sports Arena

Date: Sat. 1st August '15 @ 10.00 – 1pm.

Cost £10

C/Date: Tuesday 23rd June '15

WALK FROM HAMBLETON

Date: Wed. 2nd August '15

Time: Approx. 1.00pm

C/Date: Friday 10th July '15

WALKING TREASURE HUNT IN GARSTANG

Venue: The Old Barn, Garstang

Date: Wed. 19th August '15

Time: 6.00-6.30 (staggered starting times)

Cost: £9 per person incl. supper @ Tithe Barn

C/Date: Thursday 30th July '15

Future Dates for your diary from LFWI

SEPTEMBER

HOLIDAY

Short break to Highgrove + Adam Henson's Farm

Dates: 22-23+24 September

Deposit to be paid by 27 July '15

Contact Helen more details.

COUNTY SHOW:

Ticket application

Preview Evening

Betty Sanderson Memorial Trophy

Information on Table July + August '15

MUNCASTER CASTLE, CUMBRIA

Date: Wednesday 30 September '15

Info: July+August meetings.

WATERCOLOURS FOR BEGINNERS

Dates: Wed 30 September or Sat. 3 October

Info: July+August meetings.

ONE DAY BOWLS TOURNAMENT

Sunday 6th September

Info: July meeting

2016 WI DIARY/2016 CALENDARS

Info: July and August meetings.

COUNTRYSIDE QUIZ AFTERNOON

Wednesday 9th September '15

Venue: Global Renewables – Leyland.

Info: July + August meetings

LANCASHIRE SINGS FOR JOY

Venue: Lancaster

Date: Sat. 24th October

Info: July-August + September meetings

Newsletter content by Joyce Dalgliesh and WI

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Newsletter also available on our website:

www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS



June
2015

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