

## Last Meeting

14th September

We started the evening with a toast to Her Majesty the Queen, Duke of Lancaster, in recognition of her being the longest serving Queen – breaking the record set by Queen Victoria. We also acknowledged WI Day due on the 16th September which is the actual centenary of the start of the WI. We sang The National Anthem as well as Jerusalem.

Perhaps to make up for their non-appearance when they were scheduled to appear at our April meeting Marks and Spencer sent along 3 people to address us in September. They brought lots of food and drink for us to sample which obviously we were more than happy to try. More importantly they took us seriously as an organisation known for its campaigning on important matters. They explained their ethics re sourcing of products, concern for environmental issues and their policy on food safety and labelling. Also they had information of gluten free foods they stock. We all enjoyed this talk and I thought they struck the right balance between informing us and promoting M&S. We particularly enjoyed the champagne that they supplied for tasting – it's not often that we open and close a meeting with sparkly stuff – it was an effort to fit the tea and cakes in as well!

## Competition Results

Competition results; 1st Karen Buckels, 2nd Norma Walker, 3rd Pam Melling

## Next Meeting

Monday 9th November 2015, Annual Meeting  
Competition; none this month

## Over Hulton WI

Over Hulton WI - Tea Afternoon - Monday 14th September

Just a few lines to say that Pat and I spent a really nice afternoon with members from a variety of local WI's. The event was held in support of the Emmaus Project, a charity for the homeless and the proceeds £480 went to support this worthy cause. The raffle prizes – lots of them were really good. Christmas tasteful stocking fillers were in abundance from the stalls and of course – the cakes – wonderful!

Helen

## The Family Way

Thursday 24th September 2015 Octagon Theatre

The first in the season of plays in The Octagon series was The Family Way. This proved to be well acted and directed and thoroughly enjoyed by all. However I'm not sure we liked finding it billed as a "Period Drama" as for most of us this portrayed a time we'd lived through. In an attempt to cater for those not able to come to midweek matinees I had booked for Saturday afternoon and as we had people with us who haven't joined us before I think this proved to be a good idea.

As usual I booked a table and we had lunch in the café first. Pat

## LFWI Countryside and Environment Quiz

On Wednesday Helen Sloan and I dared to enter the Countryside and Environment Quiz at Leyland. We now know that a collection of mice is not an infestation, but a "mischief". Nobody scored any points for that! We were joined by a lady from Much Hoole, who had come alone. She was unable to rescue us from 5th place.....out of 5! We did enjoy meeting other sufferers and at least I won a raffle prize!

Barbara Alker.

## County Show

Twelve WI members travelled to the Annual County Show by minibus. We arrived at Garstang Country Hotel at 11.30 which gave us a few hours to stroll around. The first-time 'attenders' were quite overcome with the volume of crafts adorning rooms, walls, bannisters – I remember the same reaction on my first visit. Where there was space to display something – it was



a small stake and placed in the display. The remainder was then completed by our talented team of doll makers, painters, and 'maker of books' – Well done everyone!



The general consensus of the minibus travellers was that we have been inspired and our personal resolve is to enter next years' show – after all its not the winning but....  
Helen

displayed! We had a much needed calming cup of tea then planned our days' route. As we went from table to table – we were thrilled to see a familiar name pop up here and there most having attained a high mark or some suitable encouraging words from the judge. There were a number of 1sts for A&H WI. One name – Gill Brown - appeared quite a number of times. She was awarded no less than 4 x firsts for her excellent input. Added to this she won the Betty Sanderson Trophy – an accolade indeed – Well done Gill! Aspull and Haigh were well represented and we felt proud also to be part especially when we were told that our WI had won the co-operative entry for the 3rd time. (Last year we came joint 1st) This years' exhibit was for a display depicting resolutions past and present. All our members had been involved by writing their name, resolution and cameo of themselves on a card which was attached to

## Muncaster Castle

September 30th 2015

Gill and Anne boarded the coach at Leyland on a bright sunny morning on route with LFWI to Muncaster. We picked some ladies up at Barton then it was full steam ahead. When we left the motorway the scenery was awesome, but unfortunately, the driver got lost and this resulted in an extra 30 minutes of travel to our destination. We got off the coach but could see no castle! We had been dropped off at the wrong place. We had to get back on the coach and travel to the correct entrance. We did a tour of the castle but was not allowed to take any photographs. The

antiques inside the castle were very interesting and their descriptions very informative. We had lunch in the tea rooms and afterwards went outside to have a look at the birds of prey. St Michaels and All Saints



Church is part of the Muncaster Estate, so we went and had a look inside. It is a very old Church and very beautiful inside. We left Muncaster at 4.30 p.m. and arrived back at Leyland at 7.00 p.m. An enjoyable but tiring day. Gill and Ann



## WI Centenary Skydive Experience

When I saw an email from Pat, forwarded from Deb Connor of Lowton W.I., I was intrigued. She was organizing an event with a difference to celebrate the W.I. Centenary! She wanted 50 members from different Institutes to take part in a Flying experience at Airkix in Manchester. It was the word FLYING that attracted me, as I've always thought if I could choose a



superpower it would be to be able to FLY. So of course I said yes to the invitation, after checking that no aeroplanes were involved! Pat offered to accompany me and, on 16th September we started out. Pat said a lady wanted a photo of us at St. Elizabeth's hall. She omitted to tell me 'the lady' was a reporter for Wigan Evening News! When we got to Trafford Park we decided to drive around to find Airkix before having lunch, and, only after many

fruitless attempts did we find it. When we arrived at Airkix we met up with Deb and all the other intrepid souls, and had a lovely time chatting to them all. I don't think the staff of Airkix quite knew what to make of us all! I was in the first group to 'fly'. After the Instructor, a lovely guy called Josh, had explained the hand signals we needed, we were kitted out with overalls, earplugs, goggles and helmet. We then entered the dome's sitting area, and were taken into the Skydive dome one at a time. Then it was my turn and I FLEW, albeit that it felt more like having a force ten gale lifting me up! We all got 2 turns of 1 minute (which of course made the 100 total for the Centenary). The second time we were given the option of having Josh take us up to the top of the shaft, and we all did, which in fact was a brilliant feeling of flying. After all that, I have indeed booked to go again in October --watch this space!  
Pam

## Centenary Picnic in Heaton Park

Sunday 27th September



A perfect late summer's day, glorious sunshine, birds singing and bees busy in the hives just behind us. People arrived in groups or pairs or on their own each laden with blankets and picnic baskets. As each group settled out came the banners and bunting to be draped over trees, bushes or fences, anywhere to let the world know that the WI had arrived. A table was set up and miraculously a cake arrived, plastic glasses and more than a few bottles of sparkling wine.



The noise level rose as groups mingled – families organised dog walking and football whilst food was organised and shared. Then it grew quieter as the serious matter of eating got underway. Then everyone grouped round the cake with glasses charged the strains of Jerusalem floated across the park. A lady from 'The Heaton's' (Cheshire Fed.) gave a Zumba session! Fortunately for me the batteries soon ran down on her computer so with no music we could rest. This was followed by a craft session when we all, husbands, grannies and children included, were taught to arm knit a scarf. As the sun started to cool bunting was cleared and baskets packed. What a wonderful way to celebrate not just the past 100 years but the future of the WI with all these new groups forming and members meeting in such an informal and friendly way.  
Gill

## Mikron Players

Four actors tell the story of the WI from its beginnings in Canada to Anglesey at the beginning of the First World War to where we are in 2015, the 100 years Celebration. The first act opens with the traditional Bunnington WI ladies bemoaning the fact that numbers are dwindling – they seem unable to tempt younger members with new ideas and constantly

refer to the recipe for making the perfect rabbit pie! One would wonder why this would entice new members. Enter a young, enthusiastic PR guru who has all the answers. Her first plan is to change their name from Bunnington WI to 'Bunnington Bunnies' this does not go down well... She introduces them to updated forms of communication – mobiles – websites - twitter – to improve the running of the institute. Horror of horrors!! Clearly upset, the traditionalists fight. They present their case. The history of the WI and the perennial fights against injustice are brought to the fore. All resolutions from day one are presented - some lost – many won – others still ongoing - an institution not just a cause but a worthy one at that! The PR Guru has arranged a speaker for the evening. When she doesn't arrive questions are asked leading to one of the ladies snatching the guru's mobile and reading the text. It transpires that this 'upstart' has got her information wrong – there is no speaker! She is upset and vulnerable at this point and pours out her heart to the ladies that her motives had been to be accepted, that she really is a lonely and unhappy person seeking friendship in the WI. Make of this what you will – The brash new PR guru with good intentions and good ideas to move forward and overstepping the mark; yet having the humility to ask for acceptance and friendship. The traditionalists set in their ways unable to move forward but kind and forgiving people, who perhaps need to give more thought to new ideas. New ground has been covered by both sides and I think between the two a new optimism has entered the WI. True to life? A really good and humorous story. Helen

### Bowling

Our bowling season got off to a poor start:- Firstly, maintenance of the green was taken over by Aspull Bowling Club and initially, we were not sure if we could continue to use it and secondly because of poor weather conditions. Interruptions for Beacon Group rehearsals plus my transport problems led to a very unsettled year. Finally the cancellation of the LFWI Bowling tournament scheduled for late September (a very late cancellation) brought a difficult season to a less than satisfactory end. Despite the above, on the occasions that we did play we thoroughly enjoyed it. Had we not enjoyed ourselves as much as we did and had we concentrated more on bowling and less on gossip and laughter, we would probably have ended up better bowlers? However..... There's always next year!! Mary

### LBD on tour (still)

The little black dress has had 3 outings this month to very different WI's Friday 18th it crossed the border into Cheshire to an open meeting organised by Cheadle and Gatley WI. The room was packed as Cheshire were very aware that this was their only opportunity to view the dress. They achieved something that Lancashire has never managed – kept Gill tethered to a point unable to move! Due to the size of the audience a microphone had to be used but it was stretched to its limit and had no stand. This caused a few problems but didn't seem to affect everyone's enjoyment. Wednesday 1st October, to Busy Bees which is a new 'Work place' group of ladies who are employed by Manchester University and meet in their lunchtime. Strange to have your audience munching away on their lunch and no refreshments for us. Still with only an hour it does keep the business brief and meeting on track time wise. They were in awe of "Gills Skills" and interested from a fashion perspective. Wednesday 7th October Lathom WI an evening meeting at a longer standing Institute who asked questions which showed

they understood sewing. Although one of the smallest groups we have visited there were probably the highest number of sewers present. At least we got tea and a biscuit.

### Trips and Outings

Trips & Outings. Booked / Planned.  
Next production at WLT is Pygmalion on Wednesday 21st October  
Octagon An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen adapted by Arthur Miller and directed by David Thacker. I believe this is excellent but certainly NOT light-hearted entertainment and I've no plans to attend until after our 60th celebration on the 12th October. Enquiries to me please.  
Northern Ballet have a NEW production based on the book 1984 at the Palace 14-17 October  
Jersey Boys is at the Opera House 27Oct-7Nov I loved this and could see it again.  
Wednesday 16th December Clayton le Woods Christmas Concert At Ambrose Church 7pm  
NEXT YEAR 20th January at the Lowry 'Girls'.  
NEXT YEAR Birmingham Royal Ballet Romeo and Juliet at the Lowry 2-5 March  
NEXT YEAR Footloose is at the Liverpool Empire 9-14 May

CINEMA Suffragette being shown from Monday 12th Oct Hamlet live link up Thursday 15/10/15  
Thursday 12 November My favourite ballet dancer Carlos Acosta is part of quadruple billing which includes Carmen. As this runs for 4 hours not for the fainthearted but I,d willingly sit for so long just to see the section with his dancing as I think he's the best dancer since Nureyev.

The Nutcracker Ballet live link 7.15pm 16th December maybe something to eat first as our Christmas treat? Suggestions as ever please to any committee member. Pat

### NFWI News

Urgent Campaign Action – CARE NOT CUSTODY  
Informative leaflet – table at October meeting  
See Pat or Helen. Special report in October Edition WI Life.

Note: Nutcracker, Royal Opera House – London Saturday 19th December. Closed due to popular demand.

ANNUAL MEETING – BRIGHTON Saturday 11th June 2016.

### LFWI News

Nominations for election to Board of Trustees 2016/18  
Details on info. table - October and November meetings.

Resolutions: Discussion meetings to be held on Tue. 3 Nov'15 @ Croston House, Leyland.  
C/Date: Thursday 22nd October '15.

### Dates for your diary from LFWI

NOVEMBER  
CHRISTMAS WILLOW WEAVING  
Dates: Friday 6th or Saturday 7th November '15  
Time 10.00 – 3.30pm both days.  
Venue: Croston House, Leyland  
Cost: £18 + Cost of willow £10 to be paid on day.  
C/Date Monday 26th October '15.

INTERNATIONAL DAY – CHINA  
Venue: St. John's Minster, Preston.  
Date: Wednesday 18th Nov '15 - 10.00 for 10.30 until 3.30.  
Cost £15 incl. light buffet lunch. C/Date: 26th October '15.

DECORATED POTS:  
Venue: LFWI Offices – Croston House Leyland.  
Dates: Fri. 27th Nov. or Sat. 28th November'15 – 10.00-3.30pm.  
Fee: £18 + cost materials £5 to be paid on day.  
C/Date: Monday 16th October '15.

CELEBRATE LANCASHIRE DAY  
Venue: Brindle Community Hall, Water St. Brindle  
Date: Friday 27th November '15  
Time: 2.00 – 4.30pm (doors open 1.30pm)  
Cost £7.50 incl. light refreshments  
C/Date: Thursday 5 November '15.

DECEMBER  
SWING WITH THE WI  
Venue: Lancastrian Suite, Chorley Town Hall  
Date: Thursday 3 December '15  
Time: 7.00 – 9.30pm (Doors open 6.30)  
Cost: £10 incl. soft drink and mince pie.  
C/Date: Monday 9th November '15.

CLAYTON LE WOODS CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
Wednesday 16th December at St. Ambrose Church, Leyland  
7.00 pm

### 2016 Dates for your diary from LFWI

FEDERATION FUN QUIZ  
Monday 25th January 2016 7.30 – 10.00pm  
Cost £8 per person. 3 places available as at 02/10/15.  
C/Date: 26th October 2016

HOME FURNISHINGS WORKSHOP  
Venue: Croston House, Leyland.  
Date: Sat. 16th January 2016 or Mon. 18th January 2016  
Time 10am to 3.30pm. Cost: £18  
C/Date Monday 4th January '16

SCRABBLE AFTERNOON  
Venue: Croston House, Leyland  
Date: Tuesday 19th January 2016 Time: 1.30pm-4.00pm  
Fee: £5 per member.  
C/Date: Thursday 7th January '16.

### Local events

Floral Art Demonstration @ Et. Elizabeth's Parish Hall  
On Tuesday 24th November '15 @ 7.30.  
Tickets £6.50 incl. Punch and Mince pies.

Lancashire Night with Rob Mason  
Saturday 5th December '15 @ 7.30. Price £6.

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

### Aspull & Haigh

# NEWS

## October 2015



Newsletter content by WI Members,  
diary and dates by Helen Sloan  
Edited by Gill Brown  
All past newsletters are available on our website:  
[www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk](http://www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk)  
In addition there are excerpts and full length videos of some events.

[www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk](http://www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk)