

## Last Meeting

November 2015 – AGM

The finale of Centenary year was a talk by Joyce Holmes about her connection with Stoney Creek, Ontario, and her trips to see the WI museum at the original meeting place of the WI. Joyce visited regularly and became part of their social calendar – the flags were raised in her honour – and



perhaps due to her petite stature and silver white hair was nick-named 'The Queen' and afforded all pomp and ceremony! We were most amused at her endeavour to include all her family as 'royals'. It was satisfying to have been able to have an insight into the beginnings of our Institute in Canada and to have visited the Toll House, Anglesey in the Centenary year. What brilliant organising Pat! Thanks for all your commitment during 2015.

After such an entertaining talk and opportunity to browse through the memorabilia, including a copy of the original constitution, Pam Simpson, our Adviser oversaw the business of the AGM. Barbara bought us up to date on our finances; we are still in credit – but in real need of an injection of fund raising. Helen talked us through the Annual Report; what a busy year it has been! Hosting the 'Beacon Meeting' including a full blown pantomime, the trip to Anglesey including the garden visit, the live link up with the National Annual meeting, not to mention the garden party at Buckingham Palace as well as a plethora of visits to the theatre and cinema and supporting Federation events. No wonder we all needed to relax, eat, drink and enjoy Christmas.

Pat stepped down as President but will continue on the committee and organise trips and outings. Jo has taken on the mantle of President, for which we all wish her good luck and I'm sure she will be well supported by all the members. The committee is similar but Joyce has resigned (thanks to her for all her help) and Ann Butler has volunteered to join the committee. (The broken arm was purely co-incidental!!!!)

Gill

## Next Meeting

Monday 8th February "Quilts for Comfort" Linus Project.  
A talk by Lesley Mercer.  
Competition 'A Homemade article of knitting or sewing'

### Aspull & Haigh Christmas Do!



Well, I enjoyed it enormously and I sincerely hope all you ladies did. The food was excellent and served graciously by the staff. Our guests seemed to have a good time and sent their thanks. The singing was not up to Clayton-le-Wood's



standard but we were enthusiastic and hope you enjoyed our efforts. Congratulations to all prize winners. Looking forward to a busy and fun new year.  
Jo

### WLT - Murder Weapon by Brian Clemens

Everyone enjoyed this production which held our attention and provoked much discussion during the interval as to "Who Did It?" Two of WLT's finest Linda Don Bavand and Paul Dawson played convincingly as Chief Inspector Jessica Bligh and Inspector Freemont. Also praise for Paul Leffler who apparently stepped in at short notice to play the main suspect Charley Mirren. This year's productions are certainly proving excellent value for our season ticket holders.

Pat

### Swing with the WI

Jean and I attended 'Swing with the WI' at the Lancaster Suite – Chorley Town Hall on Thursday 3rd December 2015. The concert opened with Katy Bradley, a very

talented lady who sang a selection of festive songs, accompanying herself on the piano. Her repertoire was both serious and flippant, each item complimenting the



previous one -lovely! Following the interval in which wine, shortbread and mince pies were served, the PMC Dance Band from Poulton le Fylde took the stage. They were very good and professional despite the ongoing struggle they seemed to have with the sheet music which seriously seemed he have its own mind as it folded here and there, causing slight embarrassment to the 'leader' and much mirth to the audience – so if you hear of origami music – this concert is where the term originated! Throughout this year – the best laid plans of mice and men ..... and all that have been somewhat stretched. This event was no exception – yet despite the fact that the band turned up at the wrong time, leaving the organisers to rearrange the artists; the 'concertina' sheet music and impromptu bell-ringing from a nearby church simply added to the fun!!

Conclusion: This was a most enjoyable and fitting end to the centenary celebrations. Thank-you organisers another success!

Cheers WI Ladies – here's to the next 100 years!! Jean and Helen

### International Day - China

Wednesday 18th November. Avril, Mary, Helen and I attended the International Day at St John's minster, Preston. The theme was China. Feixia Yu, Director of the Confucius Institute at UCLan gave a history of the role of women and their place in Chinese society through the ages. She drew similarities between cultures east and west at different stages of history culminating in the present day. It was certainly thought provoking as much of her information was not that which is portrayed in western media. A number of her colleagues dressed up in the costumes of their native regions illustrating the cultural diversity within the 36 provinces of the nation. After lunch we had a talk and demonstration on Chinese Brush Painting by Peta Allingham. She brought with her some examples of her work to browse through and explained some of the techniques used. The day closed with another



talk and demonstration. This time on tai chi by Helena of Lighthouse Tai Chi. She gave a run down on her own journey into Tai Chi through martial arts followed by an explanation of the 5 styles of the art and their respective origins. She explained the health benefits in particular for sufferers of arthritis. Her informative talk

came to a climax with demonstrations of various genres ending spectacularly with a style using a fan Dorothy Spain

### Christmas Concert with Pemberton Old Wigan Brass Band

You did not need to be a fan of Brass Bands to enjoy this concert. A wide ranging selection of music from the Youth Band, the B Band and the Senior Band gave us much



pleasure and put us in the mood for Christmas. We were impressed by their encouragement of young players many of whom were skilled enough to play at senior level. Highlight for me was the young soloist Lewis Barton, dressed in military uniform and leading the band in The Little Drummer Boy.  
Pat

### Bradshaw & Harwood Christmas Party

On 3 December, Pat Henderson and I attended the Bradshaw & Harwood WI Christmas Party which was held at Brightmet Golf Club, Bolton. The weather outside was frightful but the welcome was so delightful! We were seated with other guests of Beacon Group WIs – Ladybridge and Heaton and were highly entertained by their jokes and tales of their childhood and misspent youth. We enjoyed a delicious meal and joined in with quizzes and games. No luck in the raffle though. A

thoroughly good time was had and it was a lovely start to the festive season.

Sue Fernside

### Ladybridge WI Christmas Party

Gill and I attended Bradshaw and Harwood Xmas party, the ladies were most hospitable, the food delicious, but despite coming joint winner, "we woz robbed" of the quiz prize in the draw, better luck next year perhaps.  
Jo

### Heaton WI Christmas Party

Marlene Winward and Pam Melling attended as guests of Heaton W.I. at their Christmas party, held at Markland Hill Tennis club. It was a very enjoyable evening. We were greeted at the door and presented with a glass of wine, then shown to the Top table, along with guests from Ladybridge and Bradshaw and Harwood Institutes, and the President and Secretary of Heaton WI. The meal was a Buffet, with lots of choice, and was perfectly delicious! We were entertained by Heaton's new President who talked about her childhood as the daughter of a rag and bone man, who also bought and sold a variety of goods. These included a sackful of socks, which were sorted into pairs by the local children, who were paid a penny a pair. They were then sold at market for a shilling a pair. We were highly amused when she told us that the odd ones were then paired as 'boot socks' for sixpence a pair! He sounded much like an 'Arthur Daley' character. After Secret Santa, the raffle proved lucky for us both. We agreed we had had a thoroughly good evening.  
Pam

### Cinema Trips

What started as an impromptu visit grew into a large group (oh the powers of email) of members going to the cinema at Robin Park not once but twice. The first occasion was to see "Suffragette". This was an excellent film which didn't suffer from over glamorizing, as feared, and left us all wondering how anyone can fail to vote after so much suffering and degradation endured to give us the opportunity to be counted. Lady in a Van was the second film. What an amazing performance by the indomitable Maggie Smith. Everyone seemed to enjoy this star studded film  
Gill.

Two outings to the cinema to see ballet live link ups to the Royal Opera House. 12/11/15 four ballets with the final performance by Carlos Acosta in Carmen which was also choreographed by him. You all know I'm a huge fan of his but all agreed this was excellent.  
16/12/15 the Nutcracker. The costumes, scenery and familiar music make this a hugely popular ballet which tends to be performed every year. There is no substitute for actually being at the Ballet but at £15 compared to the over a hundred pounds for a good seat at ROH apart from the cost of travel to London, I'm happy to settle for a seat at the cinema!!  
Pat

### Clayton le Woods Christmas Concert

The last WI event of the year and the beginning of Christmas. This event always lives up to expectation, wonderful singing, with a wide selection of secular songs and carols interspersed with readings both profound and humorous in St Ambrose church which is dressed to perfection with beautiful flower arrangements and the biggest tree you could imagine. Add to that wine, mince pies and friendly faces.... Truly the Season of Good Will.  
Gill

### Trips and Outings

20th January 2016 at the Lowry 'Girls'.  
25th January 1st meeting of Gardening Group meet at Pat's 10am.  
25th January Federation Quiz at Parbold.  
5th February Lunch Club meet 12.30pm at Truly Scrumptious.  
Birmingham Royal Ballet Romeo and Juliet at the Lowry 2-5 March  
Footloose is at the Liverpool Empire 9-14 May

Suggestions as ever please to any committee member.  
Pat

### NFWI News

Time to talk about Organ Donation: Survey on WI site – <http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WIorgandonation>

Ongoing campaign on climate change.  
Green Hearts Crafting Workshop – See LFWI

### LFWI News

LFWI will be supporting NFWI ongoing campaign re above on  
Climate change by holding Green Hearts Crafting Workshop  
@ Leyland office on Wednesday 3rd February 10.00 to 3.00.  
See leaflet on table for more information.

Flood Recovery Fund. More information @ January meeting.

CALENDAR 2017 – See information table  
Closing date for accepting photographs is Thur. 11th February '16.

LFWI Residential Designer Day – Denman College  
Student Booking Form – C/Date: Monday 22 February '16.

FACEBOOK – Find us on LFWI and look at our page.

### Dates for your diary from LFWI

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

FEDERATION FUN QUIZ  
Venue for Aspull & Haigh will be at Parbold WI Hall  
Monday 25th January '16. 7.30 – 10.00. Cost: £8 per team.  
Transport will be arranged at January meeting.  
C/Date: Monday 26th October '15. (Entries have been entered)

BEGINNERS EMBROIDERY – SEW A GARDEN  
Venue: Croston House Friday 5th or Saturday 6th February '16  
Cost: £18 Tutor: Sue Bennett.  
C/Date: Thursday 21 January '16.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
Venue: Southport Theatre on Thursday 10th March '16.  
Time: 10.45 – 3.30 (doors open 9.30am)  
Cost: £14 per ticket.  
Refreshments in complex @ £7.80 'Grab a bag'.  
Details on info. Table. C/Date: Monday 22nd February '16.

WORKSHOP FOR WI SECRETARIES  
Venue: Croston House, Leyland.  
Date: Saturday 12th March 10.00am – 12.30pm.  
Cost: £5 (WI responsible for payment)  
C/Date: Monday 7th March '16.

FIRST AID: DEFIBRILLATORS  
Venue: Borwick + Priest Hutton Memorial Hall, Carnforth  
Date: Tuesday 15th March '16. Cost £6  
Time 7.00pm-9.30pm.  
C/Date: Monday 22 February '16.

PROGRAMME PLANNING WORKSHOP  
Venue: LFWI Office, Croston House, Leyland  
Date: Sat. 19th March '16 – Time: 10.00am to 12.30pm.  
Cost £5 per person (WI responsible for payment)  
C/Date: Monday 14th March '16.

LIVERPOOL: ALBERT DOCK + ST. GEORGES HALL  
Date: Thursday 21st April '16: Cost £16  
Details on information table.  
C/Date: Friday 18th March '16.

BE IN THE KNOW FOR THE COUNTY SHOW  
Sessions being held on following:  
02/04/16 – Croston House - Leyland  
15/04/16 – Ladybridge Community Centre  
20/04/16 - Croston House – Leyland  
Flyer on info. Table – January and February '16.  
C/Date Monday 21 March '16

TOY MAKING  
Venue: LFWI Offices, Croston House, Leyland  
Dates: Friday 22 April or Saturday 23 April '16  
Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm. Cost £18  
Flyer on info. Table. C/Date: Thursday 31 Mar '16.

A.C.W.W. - JEWELLERY JAMBOREE  
Venue: WI Office, Croston House, Leyland  
Wednesday 27th April '16. 10.30am – 3.30pm  
See flyer on information table.

WATER EVERYWHERE – EVEN ON MARS  
Venue: LFWI Offices, Croston House Leyland  
Date: Saturday 16th April '16  
1st session - 10.00 for 10.30–12.00  
2nd session – 1.00pm for 1.30–3.00pm  
Cost £8 per person.  
Closing date for applications: Monday 11th April '16.

COUNTRYSIDE/ENVIRONMENT – WALK  
From: Haigh Hall Country Park, @ 10.30am  
Date: Tuesday 26 April '16. Cost £2.  
See flyer on info table in Jan/Feb and March.

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.

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

### Aspull & Haigh

# NEWS

## January

## 2016



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