

Dear Members

First and foremost may I be the first to wish 'Happy Birthday' to Anne Couchman, Val, Joyce, Doreen Hartley, Avril, Gill Brown, Dorothy Spain, and Helen Corish.

As our contribution to Denman's upkeep the committee suggested that we donate our May raffle money. Denman is our 'Jewel in the Crown' and it would be sad to lose this facility, especially as Alston Hall our local Lancashire College has already closed. If you have any objections please raise them at April's meeting.

The committee also thought it would be fun to support 'Brasket'!!!! They suggest it as an alternative to the competition for 'Stroll and Strawberry' July meeting. Again let me know if you are happy with this decision.

Thank you for your continued support for 'The Brick Charity'. I can assure you that your contributions are gratefully received.

Jo

## Last Meeting

MONDAY, 14TH MARCH

At the meeting our talk was given by Mick Gradwell, retired detective who led the investigation into The Morecambe Bay Tragedy. 23 Chinese cockle pickers drowned when they were trapped by sweeping tides, whilst working in Morecambe Bay. They were all working illegally, picking cockles for hours on end, to send money back to their families.

Mick Gradwell led us into a secret world of gangsters and criminals, a world where we would rather not dwell. But these people were desperate and exploited to make money for the criminal gang masters. He said that criminals were funnelling £1million per day to China by exploiting workers all around England. Tens of thousands of illegal Chinese workers were living in this country. They built some kind of life in hidden communities, somehow away from official recognition. It was out and out slavery!

He told us about the gang master's girlfriend, who worked in a fish and chip shop. It was her who alerted the coastguard and police, but when they arrived it was far too late. Mick played us a disturbing tape. We could hear one of them telephoning for help and not being understood. The operator was asking for someone who speaks English to be put on the phone. He kept shouting "Water, water". In the background we could hear the sea thrashing and we knew they were all drowning. It was distressing to hear this played.

Mick told us that this exploitation is all due to the desperate poverty in the Fujian province of China. Whilst such desperation exists, there will always be the threat of people being abused for their labour. A sad tale, but it makes you count your blessings.

Sheila hinds

## Competition

Competition- an item made with shells.

1st Clare Kenyon

2nd Karen Buckels

3rd Pat Mercer

## Next Meeting

Next meeting Monday 9th May. Arctic Dog Sledging by Pat Ashcroft

Competition; 'An Animal Object.'

## WI Holiday to Harrogate 2016

Bright and early Monday morning 29th February we boarded the coach to Harrogate. The journey was pleasant and uneventful. On arrival at the St. George Hotel we were allocated our rooms. Doreen H and I had a lovely, large, warm and extremely comfortable room overlooking the exhibition hall used for the 100 years W.I. Celebration. Tuesday was the included trip to York, we did an orientation



tour of the city before free time to enjoy the delights of York, the magnificent Cathedral, The Shambles, Castle museum etc. before returning to the hotel for dinner and drinks. Wednesday a free day, what a change! Snow causing a lot of disruption to the traffic. As members of the W.I. did it stop us? Never, Pat, Kath and I visited Leeds, Margaret and Norma went to Ripon, Doreen H braved the slushy streets of Harrogate not once but twice, firstly with Pam then later with Joan. Everyone managed to

enjoy the day wherever they ventured. Thursday was the highlight of the trip. Through the dales to 'Emmerdale' and 'Heartbeat' land.



*Doreen in the 'Heartbeat' nick, Otley.*

From there to Ilkley Moor, as you can see from the photo, we're all "baht hat" Then into Ilkley for lunch and a look at the shops. The afternoon trip was to Knaresborough. Afternoon tea was a joy, Betty and Stan enjoyed theirs in a 40's style cafe, the waitress in 40's dress and Glen Miller playing in the background. Friday morning snow again. After a leisurely breakfast we set off for home. Unfortunately the planned stop at Skipton wasn't possible because of the weather so we called at Boundary Mill for a bit of retail therapy. After a lovely holiday we arrived at Aspull about 3 o'clock. A big thank you to Betty and Stan for arranging yet another very enjoyable W.I. Holiday Doreen Kay

## Spring Council Meeting Southport

The Spring Council Meeting on March 2016 was attended by 17 ladies from our WI, the hall was full to capacity so much that we were unable to sit together. Jerusalem was as always inspirational, sung by some 1600 ladies. The tone of the meeting was relaxed and the new trustees were introduced. The usual format was followed, I noted that the federation made a small financial loss, due to the exceptional centenary expenses. Ranvir Singh spoke in the morning, also Kate Butler made an appeal on behalf of Denman as did Elaine Kuznor on behalf of ACWW, who received the retiring collection. Most of our ladies stayed in the hall and enjoyed a delicious salad lunch, followed

by perusing the stalls. In the afternoon Eric Knowles from Nelson surprised us all when instead of a dry lecture on antique pottery, he regaled us with anecdotes and reminiscences of his childhood here in Lancashire. He reminded us of some local traditions including wearing a liberty bodice and swimming in hand knitted trunks and the consequences when they actually got wet. In 1971 his interest in pottery led to buying a cup and saucer for £14 10s, at the time his wage was £13 10s per week. He has appeared on Going for a Song and Call My Bluff, at the end of the proceedings he and Judith sparked an amusing "chat" which had everyone in "stitches". The day ended with the National Anthem.

Jo

**RANVIR SINGH –**

**JOURNALIST/PRESENTER/BROADCASTER:**

Ranvir was born in Blackburn 1977. She was educated at Kirkham Grammar School and graduated from Lancaster University. She then gained a Post Graduate qualification in journalism from a University in Canada. Ranvir was employed by Radio Lancashire in 2002, followed by 'North West Tonight' in 2005 - 'Daybreak' and 'This morning' breakfast shows - News at Ten – to name but a few.... She made a documentary in 2015 'When pregnant women drink and is currently working on 'Real Stories with Ranvir Singh'. Her father died when Ranvir was nine years old but she recalls her home life and how her father, a kind but astute man would insist that the family, including a very young Ranvir, 'be quiet' whilst the 6 o'clock news was broadcast. She proudly attributes her keen interest in world events and tenacity to her upbringing. The picture I paint is one of a very determined lady. However, she is bubbly, and confidant with a lovely sense of humour as she recalls times on live TV when in the middle of interviewing - the voice 'in her ear' gives her seconds to 'cut' the conversation! She told members of an incident when she and Gordon Burns were required to report on a funny incident, neither of them could do this seriously. Fortunately for them something more newsworthy turned up and the item was deleted. She admitted that the work is tiring and at the end of one broadcast, she was reminded by her co-presenter that she had forgotten to change into her 'heels' and had read the news with her slippers intact! Helen

## Gardening Group

Our gardening group met on 15th Feb at various times as it was half term.

Pat and Barbara shared seeds and bulbs to be taken home and planted with grandchildren and we look forward to seeing photos of the results!

We met again on 21st March and we learned about the various ways to take cuttings. In true "make do and mend" fashion used toilet roll cardboard inners to start pea, bean and broad bean seeds. Various items which normally are thrown away were found to have a use in gardening.

It has been agreed to meet on the Monday following our monthly WI meeting as this is easy to remember. Gill has brought us back seeds from New Zealand to try to grow, not sure if we'll succeed!!

Pat

## Quilting and Craft Group

Our Quilters meet regularly as and when convenient to the individual and have made much progress. My last quilt lesson was on Applique work and I shared this with our group, As it was Easter we did an Easter chick with both Marilyn and Joyce interpreting this with great results. Tina had seen the bag in WI Life and has adapted this to use available fabrics again with great results. All are welcome to come and try. Hoping to do a "Show and Tell" later in the year.

**Craft group** In Gills absence Avril hosted the sessions, we needle melted flowers and made Easter baskets and ate cake generously supplied by Hester. We need to fix a regular meeting day for this group.

## Lunch Club

**March.** Lunch club, due to a surprise snowfall only Ann and I went to San Marco, so we took the opportunity to give our husbands an outing, and very nice it was too. Jo.

**April.** The venue for this month's luncheon was The Owls at Standish and was attended by seven members, Pat, Gill, Helen, Ann, Jean, Glenys and Marie. Before we were called in for lunch,



we were fascinated to hear about the adventures of Gill and Rob on their holiday in Australia and New Zealand. It sounded wonderful and was obviously a great trip! When

we were seated at our table (and we were amazed to see how very busy they were) we were served promptly and efficiently. All agreed that the food was of a good standard and well worth the price. Some discussion ensued as to where we might go next month but no decision has as yet been made. Marie

## Theatre Group

**Chorley Little Theatre Friday 26th February Billy Liar**

Oh what a night!

Seven WI members and two guests had a wonderful night. We met EARLY, had a wonderful pre-theatre dinner, with wine for those not driving and coffee for those who were! Then into the theatre, for some it was a first visit to Chorley Little Theatre, but it will not be the last! The acting was superb dads eyebrows and incessant swearing, mums exasperation, Grans death and as for Billy Liar and his mixed up love life and hated job!

We all ached from laughing and look forward to our next theatre evening. Carole

**Adlington Community Centre was the venue for Legally Blonde the Musical.**

We attended on opening night so theatre was only 3/4 full which maybe did not absorb the sound which was rather loud for us. Still it was great to see live orchestra instead of recorded music. The show itself we could not fault, the young cast sang and danced the whole way through leaving us amazed at their sheer stamina. Dance routines were impressive. Pat

**Wigan Little Theatre Wednesday 2nd March Be My Baby**

Our regular visit to WLT was perhaps the best this season. It was good to see the theatre restored to a good condition following the floods in December. The newly refurbished Ladies, new carpets and painted walls in the bar really enhanced the visit, but the show was the star attraction.

A small cast of four young ladies (all pregnant), one Mum and one Matron, held us enthralled; sometimes laughing, "but how does it get out if they don't cut you?" was the cry of one mum. She was most perturbed when told! Other times wanting to sing along, "Be my, be my baby" and "We're goin' to the chapel". Finally wanting to cry for the pain of the girls whose babies were forcibly adopted!

As all good theatre should be, a good mix of emotions.

Carole

## MARTHA, JOSIE AND THE CHINESE ELVIS

12345; 12345; No number 6 - sure, isn't that the work of the Devil! Whoa! Now just stop there - Martha's OCD seems to have rubbed off on me (must try to get this out of my head) - 12345. For those who haven't seen this play I'm afraid you missed a treat and will be totally lost, but here goes - 12345. Josie is a dominatrix, working from her front room in Bolton. She has regular male clients and we are introduced to Lionel, who is dressed in his 'Naughty Maid's' outfit. They have become good friends and Lionel wants to give a 50th Birthday Party for Martha, who is now keen to give up her job - 12345. Josie has twin girls, Louise and Brenda Marie. Louise left home at a young age because she was ashamed of her mother. She went to university and has just qualified as a teacher. Brenda Marie has 'special needs' and is told by her mother that Louise has died. But for some reason Louise decides to come home to see her mother on her 50th birthday - 12345. Martha is Irish and very religious. She is Josie's cleaner and has more than a touch of OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). She has no idea about the details of Josie's work and believes she does 'counselling' - 12345. Bring in a Chinese Elvis as entertainment for Josie's birthday and you almost have a farce. It is just hilarious. Elvis doesn't know the songs requested and only has a small Elvis repertoire. When he is not singing Elvis songs his voice is soft and feminine, and really quite funny - 12345. Brenda Marie dreams of becoming an ice-dancer. She is so endearing it brings a tear to your eye and love to your heart. She likes to act as commentator and announces the scores. She tries to get Martha to give her a 6, but it is beyond her to count past 5 - 12345. Finally, Martha gets to unleash her inner self and dances the Tango with Lionel. Her transformation is really funny and again heart-warming. We want her to have a companion and we are happy for her - 12345. Josie loves both her girls equally, but thinks that she has lost Louise. However, Louise has missed both mother and sister and we do have a happy ending - 12345. The end of the play sees Brenda Marie in her 'Bolero' outfit doing ice dancing on the tiny ice rink which replaces the Elvis rug on stage. Her face is a picture of happiness - 12345. Then, another wish of Brenda Marie's is granted - it snows! It snows on the actors and it snows on the audience. Can we take any more? Oh, but how we love a happy ending - 12345. We laughed and cried out loud. We just loved Brenda Marie - and The Chinese Elvis - and Irish 'Holy Joe' Martha (Brenda Marie's words), not forgetting Josie and Lionel. The mix of characters was brilliant. 12345 - I think I'm going to need some therapy would have to give this show - A ..... Ssss.....iiiiii.....xxxx 6GOTIT!  
Sheila

**Robin Park Cinema live link to Royal Opera House for Ballet Giselle** we all agreed was simply wonderful. The costumes, sets, music, interpretation of the score were excellent. Certainly one of the best Giselle's I've seen even though there is nothing like actually being in the theatre where you get the atmosphere and can allow your eyes to take it in rather than the cameraman's choice of view. It is however great to have the story explained at the start and the interviews with the cast.  
Pat



## RIVERDANCE

On Saturday 9th April Pat, Doreen and Tina were in the audience at the O2 Apollo in Manchester watching Riverdance. The 2016 tour marks the 21st birthday of the show but we were 'Riverdance virgins' seemingly the only ones in the country who had never seen it. We were not disappointed - the dancing and music were spectacular -

Pat was amazed by the leg movements (a technique ably demonstrated by Tina on the train home and which Pat has promised to practise and perform at a future date). A good time was had by all three! Tina

## Trips and Outings

Trips & Outings. Booked / Planned.  
Look Back in Anger. - Saturday 23rd April. Matinee  
Singing in the Rain. - Saturday 18th June Matinee  
Birmingham Royal Ballet Romeo and Juliet at the Lowry 2-5 March, Palace Theatre.  
Footloose is at the Liverpool Empire 9-14 May  
Billy Elliott. January 2017. Saturday 14th January Matinee  
Thursday 19th January evening performance.  
Suggested outing to War Horse at the Liverpool Empire, NOVEMBER 2017!!!

## WI BEACON GROUP MEETING

Bradshaw + Harwood WI will be holding Beacon Group Meeting  
Venue: Dunscair Conservative Club. Date: Thursday 14th April.  
Cost £7 per head  
Names of members attending asap. We always try to support the Beacon meetings as it is an ideal way to keep in touch with neighbouring WI groups.

**Willow weaving course** booked for Saturday 11th June to be held in St. David's Parish Hall Haigh.  
We are not sure of the exact cost but it will be around £30 including materials.  
See Pat's file or email enquiries to her for more info. Please put your names on the lists which are on the table showing local outings

## NFWI News

LADYDENMAN CUP COMPETITION 2016  
Members invited to write a letter to younger self.  
See information table.

HANGING 'BRASKET' COMPETITION 2016!  
1 Entry per WI. C'Date: 'around' 31st Aug'16

NFWI Dates for your diary.

CRAFT MATERIAL + FABRIC SALE: Denman College  
Saturday 11th June '16.

## LFWI News

COUNTY SHOW @ GARSTANG  
Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd September '16..  
2016 Schedule now available - see Helen.  
BETTY SANDERSON MEMORIAL TROPHY  
'A FASCINATOR or HATINATOR'  
HAWKSHAW TROPHY: 'Afternoon tea for two'  
Details on info. table.

CAN YOU HELP? Stewards wanted for County Show.

## Dates for your diary from LFWI

AGENDA CONFERENCES: Joanne to attend 1st meeting  
Tuesday 19 April '16 to consider the two remaining resolutions which will be voted on at all WI May meetings.  
One or both may be put to the vote at the AGM in June.

WATER EVERYWHERE - EVEN ON MARS  
Venue: LFWI Offices, Leyland. Cost £8  
Date: Saturday 16th April '16  
1st session - 10.00 for 10.30-12.00  
2nd session - 1.00pm for 1.30-3.00pm  
C/Date: Monday 11th April '16.

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

AROUND WIRELESS WITH AFTERNOON TEA  
Venue: Samlesbury Hotel, Preston  
Tuesday 3 May '16 1.00 for 1.30 until 3.30  
Cost: £18. C'Date: Thursday 14 April '16.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT- LONGRIDGE  
Date: Tuesday 17th May '16  
Venue: Towneley Arms Hotel, L'ridge, Preston.  
Time: 6.00pm-9.00pm Cost £8.  
C/Date: Thursday 28th April '16. See info. table.

CREATIVE CROCHET  
Date: Wednesday 18th May or Sat. 21st May '16  
Venue: LFWI Offices, Croston House, Leyland  
Time: 10.00am to 3.30pm. Cost £18  
C/Date: Thursday 5 May '16

A BLUEBELL WALK FROM NORDEN (3 miles)  
Date: Saturday 21st May '16.  
From The Bridge Inn, Edenfield Rd. Norden  
Time: 11.00am until 1.30pm (approx)  
Cost £2 (WI will be invoiced)  
C'Date: Monday 16th May '16.

CEOP:  
POLICING INTERNET + PROTECTING CHILDREN  
Date: Monday 6th June '16  
Venue: Weeton Village Hall, Weeton, Nr. Kirkham  
Time: 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Cost: £6.  
C'Date: Monday 19th May '16.

TATHAM FELLS WALK  
Date: Wednesday 15th June 2016  
Venue: The Old School Lowgill (LA2 8PS)  
Cost: £2 per person (the Treasurer will be invoiced direct)  
C'Date: Wednesday 18th May '16.

THREE P'S! ART COURSE  
Date: Friday 17th June or Saturday 18th June 2016.  
Venue: LFWI Offices, Croston House, Leyland.  
Time: 10.00am - 3.30pm. Cost £18.  
C'Date: Thursday 19th May '16.

BAKERY AND FUDGE MAKING DEMONSTRATION  
Date: Tuesday 21st June 2016  
Venue: Brindle Community Hall, Brindle, Chorley  
Time: 10.30am to 3.30pm. Cost £14.  
C'Date: Monday 23rd May '16

ULVERSTON and the  
MANJUSHRI KADAMPA MEDITATION CENTRE  
Date: Thursday 23 June 2016  
Time: Leaving Leyland 9.30am. Cost: £23.00  
C'Date: Monday 9th May '16.

Local WI Invitations:  
Moss Side Leyland WI - Fashion Show - Jacques Vert  
Wednesday 11th May '16. See flyer on info. table.

Salford Angels: Mini County Show - Thursday 19 May '16.

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

## March/April 2016



Aspull & Haigh  
WI  
Celebrating 60 years

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