

Birthday congratulations go to Connie, Eileen and Jean this month as well as Her Majesty whose official 90th birthday was celebrated yesterday. It seems to have been a busy month with an NFWI event in Manchester as well as the annual conference in Brighton.

**Last Meeting**  
9th May 2016.



Our speaker, Pat Ashcroft, delighted us with tales of her experience of 'Dog Sledding in the Arctic'. Personally, I wasn't really looking forward to this talk. Surely, this would have nothing to interest me! Well, how wrong can you be? Pat had us on the edge of our seats, feeling the terror and the freezing temperatures she endured. She described her dogs with enthusiasm, especially her lead dog, who she depended upon and trusted to get her where she needed to be. There were times

when she was completely blinded by heavy snow. She held on, with shaking legs, in sheer terror; trusting her lead dog to follow the scent of the dogs way out in front, unseen in the distance. My thought was that if she'd been thrown off, somehow lost her balance, she would have fallen right through the deep snow. Now, Pat is not a young person and certainly does not look like your typical 'intrepid adventurer'. When she arrived at the airport, she was being directed to the 'Saga' group of 'oldies', probably on an escorted tour to see the Northern Lights. There were some shocked faces when they realised she was with the adventure group, ready and raring to go dog sledding. This is certainly not a trip for the timid, or anxious person. Pat is a woman with determination and a strength that defies her age. I was in awe of her courage and attitude.

She described the amount of clothes she had to put on; so many that 'spending a penny' was too much to contemplate. I think she said she managed 7 or 8 hours without going to the toilet! I believe the temperatures went to minus 25 degrees, so you really wouldn't want to take anything off! She took us to a landscape most of us have only seen on a small screen, and it was certainly never described with Pat's animated and humorous manner. We laughed and gasped at her descriptions – dogs howling and 'poo-ing' for the first 10 minutes. She was glad of her mask covering her face, giving some protection from the smell. Then, she described the awesome, eerie silence that descended and the fear of not knowing where the others were, just trusting her lead dog. Pat is one amazing woman, who has a wonderful spirit. She works tirelessly, raising money for Mencap. This was an inspiring talk, but strangely enough none of us fancied following in her footsteps.

Sheila Hinds

**Competition**

- Competition 'An Animal Object'
- 1st Marlene Winward
- 2nd Mary Hart
- 3rd Norma Walker

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting Monday 11th July. 'Strawberry Stroll and Tea' Competition; 'Flowers in a cup and saucer' monies collected for ACWW  
Don't forget to bring photos of your "Brasket"!

**Garden Trip to Rode Hall**

Thursday 21st July, £35.



To include morning coffee/tea, 2 course lunch, conducted tour of the Hall, view the gardens at our leisure and coach fare. Our annual garden trip has always been a highlight of the year and we hope that this year will be no exception. Rode Hall has been home to the Wilbraham family since 1669. It is not a National Trust property but is open to the public one day a week but we have arranged a private viewing. We hope to arrive in time for a morning drink, after which we will be shown round the open rooms of the Hall. Lunch will follow: Quiche and salad, followed by meringues and home grown soft fruits, tea and coffee. (Any dietary requirements please let us know). In the afternoon we will be able to look round the extensive grounds including small formal garden and rose garden, 2 acre walled garden and Italian garden, woodland walks, terraced rock garden, and lake. Fortunately coach travel has been organised so we can all sleep on the return journey. I know the price is slightly higher this year but it is all inclusive, all you will need is some money to buy any plants or gifts from the little shop!  
Gill

**Time to Talk**



'Time to Talk' ongoing resolution event at Manchester Town Hall by NFWI. I was pleased to represent Aspull and Haigh WI at this event to highlight the

need for members to have the conversation with their loved ones about their wishes on organ donation. It is a sad fact that Greater Manchester is one of the poorest areas in the UK for potential donors, even though it is so heavily populated. There were representatives present from the Town Hall and the Blood and transplant organisations as well as presentations from members of the new local WI's in Manchester. Katie Adwas, Cottonopolis,

gave a very moving talk on living with someone who needs an organ transplant and the effect it has on him and the rest of the family. It was good to see NFWI put on a local event as well as see the new city groups being included.  
Gill

**A&H Garden Party**



Thursday 18th August.  
To raise funds for our WI we intend to organise a garden party at Sennicar lane on the above date at 2pm. Tickets will be £3 to include sandwiches, cake and tea. There will be a 'bring and buy', raffle and other fund raising activities.

Please support this event both by helping with providing refreshments and attending on the day.

**Willow Weaving Workshop**



On Saturday June 11th ten WI members met at St David's Church Hall to learn Willow weaving with Joe from Creativewithnature.co.uk The day proved challenging but immensely rewarding when all ten members mastered the art and craft of willow weaving. Each member made a pea planter in their own unique style. Joe bought a selection of her work which was greatly admired. Joe was an excellent teacher and gave us an insight into the history of willow weaving. The day was filled with much laughter. Concentration and a steady supply of refreshments to quench our thirsts. We would definitely recommend this day. All ten WI members attending had never tried willow weaving before and yet we all went home with our very own piece of willow art work. Many thanks to Pat Henderson for arranging the day.  
Lesley Price Tina Gaskel

**Fundraising at Haigh Hall with Friends of Haigh**

Sunday 14th August  
Please don't forget to collect chocolate items for our 'Chocolate Tombola' Please start saving chocolate – in all forms; cakes, drinks, sweets, large and small for this event. We would also appreciate offers to help out for an hour on the day.

**Haigh, Aspull & Blackrod Show**

Sunday 21st August.  
At last they have someone to organise the 'Produce and Craft' section at the show. They have been in contact and will be publishing the schedule soon. They have asked if the WI will support this event both with entries and acting as stewards on the day. If you can help please let us know.  
Gill

**St. John's Church New Springs, Flower Day**

Sunday 26th June.  
Everyone will be very welcome to attend the service at St Johns and enjoy the church decorated with 'Craft Flowers' for their Saints Day. Alternatively the arrangement that we have done will be on display at our meeting in July.  
Gill

**Theatre Group**

**Enjoy – by Alan Bennett**

A visit to see the play, Enjoy at Wigan Little Theatre saw us immersed in a play with six characters revolving around a working class family in Leeds. The main characters are an elderly couple living in a terraced house about to be demolished. They encounter a number of jolting surprises, not least when their estranged son returns as a council official in drag and reveals their house is going to be reassembled, brick by brick as part of a local museum. The play was a mixture of black humour and sadness, very much in the Alan Bennett vein, highlighting the character's flaws but also giving them redeeming features. Reviews for Enjoy have been mixed in the media and certainly on the night, reactions were divided with opinions about the acting and casting being mixed. It certainly got people talking, which, after all, was probably what Alan Bennett intended!  
Pat Dent

To celebrate Glenys birthday we went to see Carlos Acosta at the Lowry. This was his final performance as a dancer but even without him this was excellent with many up and coming talented performers from Cuban Ballet. It was a varied programme with many well-known excerpts such as the 'Dying Swan' with the famous Saint-Saens music and Swan Lake White Swan Pas de Deux, plus newly choreographed work. Most notably dance to the haunting Edith Piaf's Je Ne Regrette Rien. You really did not need to be a fan of ballet to enjoy this show.  
Pat

**Craft Groups**



In an attempt once more to obtain fabric for County Show quilting project Carol and Ann took me with them for a ride out to Abakhan Fabrics at Mostyn. We braved the Bank Holiday traffic with which Carol coped admirably. After a lovely time looking through all the various crafting supplies we set

off to Holeywell and St Winefrides Well which I had never visited. A Mercy Arch has been erected which apparently is something the Pope has instigated (bit vague on this) but it did afford a photo opportunity. Yes we had lunch and yes we had cream tea

and although fabric was purchased nothing for County Show which is beginning to haunt me!! Great day out which is perhaps something to suggest for a group visit in the future. It is worth pointing out that Abakhan 20% off sale is on Thursday 23rd June at all their stores. Pat

**Quilting.** We continue to meet regularly with each newcomer being tasked with Puss in the Corner block to make into a cushion. The longer standing sewers in our group still smile at the mention of this block as no cats anywhere in sight. Where do they get these names from? It's a simple block for anyone to start with but has potential for scaling up to full sized quilts. Beware though when you get to this size accuracy becomes essential or else mistakes glare out!! However this is not an onerous sewing task, we have fun learning. Not sure my instruction would satisfy a quilt instructor but all our ladies have progressed to a really high standard. Pat

All the flowers have been made for our arrangement at St Johns church.

We are now moving on to a new project; Button Art. This can be as simple or complex as you like, it is simply creating a picture or design using buttons – a bit like pixelated pictures.



We meet at my house every Thursday morning (or afternoon if it clashes with book club). The first session of the project is a workshop where the technique is explained and a specific skill learnt – this week it will be how to sew a button on perfectly! Then everyone decides what they want to try, subsequent meetings are putting these decisions into practise and producing a piece of work. Obviously there is always tea and cake, and if the weather is kind we sit in the garden. Gill



## Lunch Club

We thought Rigalettos at the DW stadium would be a good venue for the next lunch meet. I suggest Thursday 23rd June at 12.30pm. They have very reasonable 2 and 3 course meal deals.

Jo

## Walking Group

Following our recent walk organised by Standish WI I received an invite to join some of their walkers who walk with Wigan Ramblers on one of the Saturday walks which non-members can just turn up and join in. The weather had been atrocious so I wasn't at all keen. Then guess what I heard the magic words Hot Pot and Cake will be served afterwards so I searched out the waterproofs!! We set off from the Globe Pub in Standish and the weather kept dry.

Wigan Ramblers were celebrating 25 years of walking and I was delighted that our own Audrey Leyland was walking with them. She tells me she's been walking with them for nearly 17 years quite an achievement in itself.



## Gardening Group



We had a great time at Pats allotment this morning planting blackcurrant bushes, peas, broad beans and potatoes in the new vegetable bed and then tomatoes in planters. It was quite cool so we were happy to dig in the rich soil. Margaret brought some beetroot seedlings

and Barbara brought some broccoli seedlings so we planted those as well. We are all looking forward to the next visit to see how the veg are progressing.

Hazel

## Trips and Outings

### June

Friday 17th June Flower Festival St Bartholomew's Church Chipping

Saturday 18th Singin' in the Rain Octagon

Thursday 23rd Lunch club Rigoletto, s 12.30pm

Friday 24th Festival of Flowers Blackburn Cathedral

### July

Friday 15th Clayton Choir concert 7.30pm £5

Thursday 21st Garden trip to Rode Hall to include coffee/tea on arrival tour of hall, lunch, gardens, coach.

### August

Sunday 14th fundraiser for A&HWI at FOHCP event at Haigh Hall donations for tombola please.

Thursday 18th Garden Party to be held at Gill Brown's Home Sennicar Lane cost £3.00

Sunday 21st Haigh Show, schedule now available on line.

### September

Saturday 17th September matinee performance Octagon to Kill a Mockingbird

### October

Saturday. 22 October matinee performance Octagon Winter's Tale

### 2017 2017 2017

Thursday 19th January evening performance Billy Elliott Palace Theatre

Saturday 28th January matinee performance Octagon Educating Rita

November Tuesday 21st evening performance or

Wednesday 22nd matinee performance Liverpool Empire. War Horse.

## NFWI News

NATIONAL ANNUAL RAFFLE 2016

Sale of tickets @ June, July + August meetings

LADY DENMAN CUP COMPETITION 2016

Members invited to write a letter to giving guidance (or warning!) to their younger selves.

Closing date 11th July '16. See information table.

HANGING 'BRASKET' COMPETITION 2016. 1 entry per WI

Members are being asked to 'plant up' a bra with your choice of flowers etc. Take photograph and bring to July meeting. 1 Entry per WI. Closing date 31st August '16.

## LFWI News

200 CLUB: Application form now available. Members please enter your details @ June + July meetings See information table. Closing date: Friday 29th July '16.

2017 WI DIARY + 2017 CALENDARS now in stock. Place your orders at July and August meetings. See info. table. Closing date for orders: Friday 26th Aug '16.

## Dates for your diary from LFWI

COUNTY SHOW

@ GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL & GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY 21ST AND THURSDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER '16.

TICKET APPLICATION: Pre-booked £4 - £5 on door

Last date for receipt of ticket: Monday 5th September '16.

COUNTY SHOW PREVIEW EVENING & GALA DINNER on

Tuesday 20th September '16.

Time: 6.00pm – 6.45pm for Dinner @ 7.00pm. Cost £23

Closing date Monday 5th Sept. '16.

BETTY SANDERSON MEM. TROPHY:

'A Fascinator/Hatinator.

Closing date: Friday 12th August '16.

HAWKSHAW TROPHY: 'Afternoon tea for two'

See details on information table.

CAN YOU HELP? Stewards wanted for County Show.

ALBERT DOCK + ST. GEORGES HALL

Date: Thursday 15 September. See info. table for times

Cost £16. Closing date Monday 18th July '16.

AROUND THE WIRELESS/AFTERNOON TEA

Date: Wednesday 10th August '16 from 1.30-3.30pm

Venue: The Samlesbury Hotel, Preston

Cost: £18. Closing date Thursday 21st July '16.

WALK FROM HAMBLETON

Date: Wednesday 24th August '16. Time 10.30am

From Hambleton Village Hall. Cost £2

Closing date for applications Wednesday 27th July '16.

TRACKING CHANGES IN NATURE THROUGH AUTUMN

(Radio presenter Russell Headley)

Date: Wednesday 7th September '16. Time 2.00

Venue: Brindle Comm. Hall, Brindle. Cost £12.50

Closing date: Wednesday 27th July '16.

MAKING NEEDLE FELTED CHARACTERS

Date: Friday 2nd Sept '16 or Saturday 3rd Sept. '16.

Venue: LFWI Offices, Croston House, Leyland.

Time: 10am – 3.30pm. Cost £18.

Two places available..

Closing date for applications: Thursday 4th August '16.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT

Date: Wednesday 14th September '16.

Venue: The Pavilion Café, Preston.

Time 10.00am or 1.30am. Cost: £8.00 per person.

Closing date: Thursday 1st September '16.

'ON THE RECORD – Life of a journalist' Angela Danby

Date: Wednesday 19th October '16. Cost: £23.

Venue: Farrington Lodge Hotel. Time: 12.00 – 12.30pm.

Closing date: Thursday 22nd September '16.

LOCAL WI EVENTS:

CLAYTON – LE-WOODS SINGERS present their Summer

Concert on Friday 15th July @ Balshaws CE High School

Leyland @ 7.30pm. Admission £5.

LADYBRIDGE WI invitation to 'Indoor Garden Party'

@ Ladybridge Comm. Centre on Friday 22nd July @ 2.00pm.

Please enter your names on list if you wish to attend.

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

May  
2016



Aspull & Haigh  
WI  
Celebrating 60 years

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