

Happy New year to everyone, let's hope that 2017 is a good year for us all. Christmas already seems a distant memory with little more than a few stray pine needles lodged in the carpet and the toffees left over from the Quality Street to remind us of the Season of Good Will.

I know a lot of our members succumbed to the winter virus and flu over the festive season and hope that you are all on the road to recovery.

I am sorry to inform you that Mary Higham; a past member, passed away during the holidays and her funeral was last week. Unfortunately we didn't get the information until afterwards so were unable to show our respects in the usual fashion.

Audrey Leyland is very poorly. She is in the Hospice at Hindley. Mary has visited her several times over the holidays and passed on everyone's best wishes.

On a brighter note we would like to wish Barbara and Gill Davies happy birthday. Gill

## Next Meeting

Monday 13th February, Chocolate Delight, Collette Alexander from the Stables, Haigh Hall.

Competition; Be my Valentine! Something appropriate for the day.

## The Christmas Party 2016

We returned to Hindley Golf Club for our annual Christmas 'do'. Well, I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed my festive meal. It was a vast improvement on the last two years and I was very happy to be there. There was plenty to eat and the main course was nice and hot. There was a good choice for dessert and really I had no complaints at all. On the table where I was seated everyone seemed to enjoy what they ate, so Christmas smiles all round. Once again the 'Secret Santa' presents were a great success – it never ceases to amaze me the diverse array of presents that our members provide. It was a very relaxed atmosphere. I think we all know it can be very hard to find the right venue for a group like our WI. We do need a private room, as going to a busy restaurant is not really an option. It can be so noisy that you can't have a conversation. Christmas is such a hectic time; planning and booking has to be done early, so if our committee intends to search for a change of venue for next Christmas, then I really don't envy them.

Our entertainment, provided by a magician, received a mixed



reception. It started off very well and I was happy to have fun being his assistant. But perhaps his act was a little too drawn out on this occasion.

Thanks must go to Marie, who bravely started off the singing, and then tentatively the rest of us joined in. Bravo Marie! But the biggest thank you goes to the committee, who every year do their best to arrange everything, including all the raffle prizes, to make our Christmas celebration special. And well, you can't ask more than that, can you?

Congratulations to Karen who was the overall winner of the monthly competition. Sheila Hinds

## Bradshaw & Harwood Party



Marlene and Pam attended the Christmas party of Bradshaw and Harwood W.I., held at The Ridgmont restaurant on 1st December. The venue is very nice, although difficult to find, thank goodness for sat-navs! We had a lovely meal and enjoyable company, and all the guests were presented with a hessian bag commemorating the Institute's 40th birthday, filled with goodies. Marlene had her usual luck with the raffle, winning 2 prizes! Pam won a prize at stand-up bingo. We thoroughly

enjoyed the evening. It is so nice to meet up with our fellow Beacon Group members once in a while Pam

## Heaton WI Christmas Party

Helen and I were invited to Heaton WI Christmas party on 13 December at Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton. Unfortunately, Helen was unable to go so I went on my own. Heaton WI is only a small group and the ladies are all so friendly that I felt completely at ease. The traditional Christmas meal was excellent and the venue first class and only round the corner from where I live which was an added bonus. We played stand up (or is it sit down) bingo and I won a bottle of wine. I also won a bottle of wine on the raffle. The Heaton Chairman, Kath Rigby, is so entertaining and had us in stitches the whole evening. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Sue

## Ladybridge WI Party

Maureen and I attended the Christmas Party given by Ladybridge WI on Friday 9th December '16 at Deane Golf Club, a really nice venue. On arrival we were greeted by members and escorted to the 'top table' where we were introduced to the other guests from the Beacon Group WI's. Each member on the table was given a quiz which we agreed to share. Actually it was enjoyable and although we didn't win, neither did we disgrace ourselves! The food was then served which was delicious and enjoyed by us both. Roast beef followed by lemon meringue, coffee and mince pies! The 'posh' raffle followed. The prizes were superb. Expensive bottles of wine, luxury toiletries, chocolates! Maureen collected a brand new hat box – just what she was looking for - to keep her mother-of-the-bride hat intact for her daughter's wedding this year! The evening concluded with everyone singing a few, wonderful and much-loved carols. Helen

## Wigan Hospice Collection

During the Christmas meal we had our regular Christmas collection for the Hospice, where we raised £120. This year it was especially poignant as we were aware that Audrey was being cared for. Last Friday Mary and I handed over the cheque and visited Audrey as well. She is not in pain, but weak. We gave her your love and best wishes.

## Clayton-le-Woods Christmas Concert

A group of members from Aspull & Haigh WI attended a concert given by the Clayton Singers in St. Ambrose Church, Leyland on Thursday 15th December 2016. On entering the church the Christmas decorations as always were prominent and beautiful. The Nativity in place within the baptistery and the Christmas Tree majestic at the front of the church - the atmosphere full of expectation. We were not disappointed! The concert was opened with the singing of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' followed by a variety of carols, poems, songs old and new, reflective and humorous. We were invited to join in the singing throughout the concert. The Clayton Singers have been together for 30+ years. As older members have retired, new ones have continued the high standard their audiences enjoy. The proceeds of the concert were donated to a local charity to provide 'safe areas' for disabled children to play in safety. Helen

## Lunch Club



Our Friday lunch club met up at the waggon and Horses Westhoughton. It is a traditional pub well known for delicious homemade food and a friendly atmosphere. There we all chose a lovely lunch from the various choices on the menu. As always when Aspull and Haigh WI ladies get together there was plenty of interesting and funny conversation everyone really enjoyed themselves. It was with a little regret when it was time to leave but Hey Oh it is only another four weeks to the next lunch meeting. There was no lunch club in December as it clashed with Christmas celebrations. January meal will be organised at the meeting tonight.

## Theatre Group

Season's Greetings, a play by Alan Ayckbourn was presented at WLT in November. The curtain opened to reveal a beautiful set showing the home of Belinda and Neville decorated for Christmas. Directed by Paul Dawson who also played Neville, the play got off to a very slow start - typical of the author who likes to take his time introducing his characters. The play is about a reunion of a middle class family and friends, who also appear to be slightly dysfunctional! Bernard is an incompetent doctor who likes to give puppet shows which bore everyone else but it has become a tradition. His wife is a hypochondriac alcoholic well played by Victoria Allen, Rachel a rather odd spinster, played by Tara Haywood introduces Clive an aspiring young novelist whom nobody has heard of. Then we have Eddie and Pattie, who is heavily pregnant. Uncle Harvey spends his time watching the television. The second act was much quicker moving and the antics of this gathering of guests caused much hilarity and culminated in the young novelist trying to have his way with Belinda, the hostess, who has been doing her best to seduce him since he arrived. The whole play finishes off as pure farce when Uncle Harvey who

witnesses this scene shoots the novelist and seems to think it was the right thing to do. Belinda was played by Lesley Kellet and Uncle Harvey by John Naughtiness. Excellent performances. Marie

## Quilting



Our group have sewn and quilted a wide variety of fabric items over the last couple of months. In the run up to Christmas we were even

having to put extra time in to complete our home made Christmas gifts of Christmas table runners, Christmas stockings, tree ornaments, cushions. What an industrious group we are.



So many of us cutting out, stitching etc that one Wednesday I had to clear the kitchen breakfast bar and also put up a picnic table. All worth it in the end and we really enjoy ourselves. Only I didn't finish until New Year, no surprise there then.

We are now planning ahead to spring with lots of ideas on the go. As always everyone welcome even if you just want a look at what we do. The non-sewers often contribute such a lot in the way of ideas and colour choices and of course keeping the kettle on the go!! Pat

## Craft Group

If you judge a project by the amount of mess generated then Christmas decorations was definitely the most successful of the year! We experimented with glitter, glass paints, more glitter and then for a change glitter again!!!! It was great fun and the results very pleasing, in fact, so much so we decided to make 6 more wine glass lanterns to give as gifts to the visitors to the Christmas meal – which were very well received. Having got fed up with finding

glitter everywhere – in the cereals, the toilet, the garden, our bed?!, we decided to try something different and made gift



boxes but it was nowhere near as much fun!! For the last meeting before Christmas we made no attempt to craft but had an 'Open house' with mulled wine and mince pies. A fitting end to the year.  
Gill



## Singing Group

Singing for fun will recommence this Wednesday at Maries house. There will be a discussion then to decide how to proceed for this year so please come along if you are interested.

## Trips and Outings

Panto Babes in the Wood WLT  
6th-21st January  
Nothing booked so this is for information only  
14th January Billy Elliot matinee all tickets taken  
19th January Billy Elliot evening performance couple of seats available  
28th January Educating Rita Octagon matinee

We are going to arrange tickets for:  
Sat 8th April Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Ann Bronte  
Sat 6th May I capture the Castle (musical based on book by Dodie Smith)

Sat 17th June Talking Heads by Alan Bennett

Please add your names to the lists on Monday if you are interested in any of these. Thanks  
Hazel and Pat  
As ever suggestions welcome.

## NFWI News

NFWI: RESOLUTIONS:  
Members will be asked to cast their vote for 1 resolution at January meeting. Details available in Nov/Dec. issue of WI Life. Voting open until 31st January 2017.

## NFWI Date for your Diary

ANNUAL MEETING to be held at the Echo Arena Liverpool on Wednesday 7th June '17  
Observer tickets £20. Transport available £10.  
Closing date Thursday 12th January '17.

## ACWW

ACWW: There will be table-top sale Sat 8th April '17 @ Barton Village Hall 10-40. Proceeds to ACWW  
Contact Elaine Cuzner 01257 452534 for details.

## LFWI News

THE ANNUAL FEDERATION FUN QUIZ will be held on Monday 30th Jan '17 @ Parbold Village Hall. This event has been over-subscribed and the teams have been selected – we wish them well!

THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held at the Southport Theatre, Promenade, Southport on Wednesday 8th March '17. Time 10.45 – 3.30pm  
See information leaflets at Jan. and Feb. meetings.  
Closing date for tickets: Thursday 23rd February '17.

## WORKSHOPS:

TREASURERS - PRESIDENTS - SECRETARIES  
Treasurers: 7th or 28th January '17. Presidents: 4th or 8th Feb '17  
Secretaries: 1st - 11th March '17.  
Various closing dates – More info. NOVEMBER MEETING or  
Email secretary: HSloan12345@aol.co.uk – Tel: 01942 832321

## Dates for your diary from LFWI

GAMES EVENING:  
Venue: Barton Village Hall, Barton, Preston on Wednesday 15th February '17 @ 7.30pm. Cost £5.50  
Closing date: Wednesday 18th January '17.

## LOVE YOUR LEFTOVERS? - 2018 LFWI CALENDAR.

Share your recipes, using left-overs + your top tips for reducing food waste. Closing date 20th Feb '17.

SEW A CORAL REEF (Intermediate Embroidery)  
Dates: Fri 3rd Mar - Sat. 4th Mar – Fri 10th Mar or Sat. 18th March. Venue: LFWI Offices, Leyland  
Time: 10.00 to 3.30pm. Cost: £18 plus £4 to the Tutor Sue Bennett on the day.  
Closing date: Wednesday 22nd February '17.

POLICING INTERNET/PROTECTING CHILDREN  
Date: Wednesday 15th Mar '17. 2.00pm–4.00pm.  
Venue: Houghton Village Hall, Blackburn Old Rd. Hoghton. Cost £8 includes tea/coffee + cakes.  
Closing date: Tuesday 28th February '17.

## EXTREME KNITTING

Venue: LFWI Office, Croston House, Leyland.  
Dates: Friday 7th April or Saturday 8th April '17.  
Time 10.00 – 3.30. Cost £18. Bring packed lunch.  
Important: See flyer for requirements needed.  
Closing date: Monday 13th March '17.

SHOW TIPS for COUNTY SHOW – See dates:  
Saturday 1st April '17. WI Office 10.00 – 12.00.  
Monday 10th April '17. Cloughton Mem. Hall. 1.30–3.00  
Saturday 22 April '17. WI Office 10.00 – 12.00  
Monday 24th April '17. The Barlow, Edgworth 1.00–3.00  
Cost £6 each to include refreshments.  
Closing date: Thursday 23rd March '17.

LADIES IN HARMONY WI CHOIR on  
Saturday 8th April '17 @ 7.30.  
Venue: Hornby Village Institute – Lancaster. Cost £7  
See flyer for information.

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

# NEWS

## January 2017



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 to watch of some past events.



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