

First and foremost I would like to thank all of you that have contributed to the collections for Women's refuge and the Brick. I am sure they will be greatly appreciated by the recipients. Thanks also to Bev who organised a spontaneous collection for the refuge after the last meeting and to Carole who enabled the items to be collected and delivered. It is good to know that we have already established the link. We hope that Carole will continue to update us with a list of 'most needed' items. Betty continues to take our contributions to the Brick and ensure they reach those in need. We appreciate her continued help.

I know that a lot of our ladies are on holiday on the night of the Beacon meeting, Thursday 27th April. This is when Bradshaw and Hawood, Ladybridge, Heaton and Aspull WI's have a joint meeting, this year hosted by Ladybridge. Please support this event if you are able. It is always a good night out and an opportunity to get to know our neighbouring groups. On a brighter note we would like to wish Nora Johnson, Gill Entwistle, Audrey, Bev and Tina 'Happy Birthday'.
Gill

January Meeting



January is always a long meeting, with subs being paid, plenty of catching up with Christmas, the annual meeting to be resolved and 'Resolutions' to be discussed and voted on. Each potential resolution was put forward by a committee member then questions and discussion followed. By far the most relevant resolution with our group was the support of Women's Refuge which received nearly half of the votes. None of them was completely unsupported. It was felt that loneliness was a subject that could be tackled without requiring a mandate.

We then required sustenance in the form of tea and cake before lightening the atmosphere with a game of Snowman – a winter form of Beetle!

Gill

Next Meeting

Monday 13th March, 'Dillon' my Assistance Dog. Talk by Deborah Cornwall.

Competition; A Dog in any form – Except Live!!

Hats off for Denman

Please support our college by entering the quiz £1 fee goes directly to Denman. Collect your quiz paper from Helen.

LFWI fun Quiz

On 30th January 12 intrepid members made up 3 teams to represent Aspull and Haigh in the annual WI quiz at Parbold. We took survival rations with us and bought tea and cake to boost our efforts! Though none of our teams disgraced us, we did not quite meet the standards of "The Appley Bridge Pippins," who won with a few points to spare. We did prove more successful in the raffle, winning 3 prizes!

The "Bluebird" symbol of happiness, not twitter, will perhaps fly for us next time!

Barbara Alker.

LFWI Creative Writing Course

Saturday 11th February



A poem to describe our day:

A creative writer? Well I'm not sure
But I'll give it a go, never done it before.
We all went in and took our places
A nice warm room and friendly faces.
The trainer began by explaining about verse
rhymes, triolet and Haiku – of course!?
Then our first task, was to write a poem
But oh my word – I'd rather be going!
There we sat with pens in hand
Wishing it was a magic wand.
Racking our brains for inspiration
But finding a blank, fear and trepidation.
Then all of a sudden, there in a rush,
The spark occurred, ink flowed in a gush
We surprised ourselves with our compilations
Of amazing, moving and funny citations.
Next it was headlines, journalistic reports,
And stories, novels, biographies and more.
Expressive, descriptive and full of emotion,
Happy and sad tales of love and devotion.
Characters, plots, sub-plots and themes
Flash fiction is dribble and drabble it seems.
Then we all summarize before we get in the car,
Creative writers? Of course we are!

Gill Davies

Lunch Club

Another lovely lunch was enjoyed this month the venue was Truly Scrumptious in Aspull. It was a large group this time



thirteen of us attended. As always there was a lot of interesting conversations and a lot of laughs. The food is delicious and well presented, with excellent service. I am looking forward to the next lunch date, any one is welcome, the more the merrier.
Marilyn Gamble.

For our February lunch we thought it would be a good idea to combine eating with supporting Parbold WI and attend their 'Pancake Bake'. Tuesday 28h February at Parbold WI Hall. Please add your name to the list. Travelling arrangements will be arranged.

Theatre Group

BILLY ELLIOT

In January, a group of ladies from Aspull & Haigh went to see Billy Elliot the Musical, at the Palace Theatre, Manchester. The musical is set in a small mining town in the North East during the miners' unrest in the mid-1980s. It is the story of a boy, Billy, who develops a passion for ballet rather than boxing, against the wishes of his family. Billy gradually wins them over, particularly his father, and eventually the whole community. He perseveres with dance lessons and wins a place at the Royal Ballet School. Four youngsters alternate playing the part of Billy and we saw Emile Gooding performing. He was superb, singing and dancing his way through the story. He kept up his north eastern accent remarkably well. The show is crammed with laugh out loud moments. There was something very funny about hearing children being bolshie and swearing, albeit slightly disconcerting at times. Three young boys alternate playing Billy's best friend, the gay Michael. Their dance routine together was one of the highlights of the play. Another memorable performance was when Billy performed with his Older Self. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance which played to a packed house. It was such a pity that traffic problems made it into a very long night and we eventually got back to Aspull at midnight. Sue

Educating Rita

Our first venture out this year to The Octagon Theatre in Bolton proved to be very enjoyable, a lovely lunch, great company and a very entertaining play. Educating Rita was sad, funny and very moving. Two very different people coming together, Frank lecturing in English and a 'would be' poet and Rita a married hairdresser who wanted to learn and better herself. With Rita's honesty and Frank's intellect each inspires the other. The consequent changes they undergo and the lessons they both learn along the way make for a brilliant and superbly acted play.

Glenys

Cinema Event

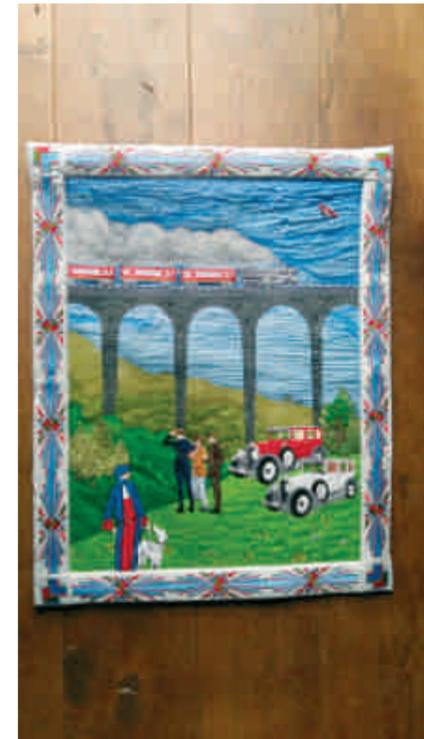
LaLa Land

A new take on the old Hollywood theme of following your dream I enjoyed the film. I found I was thoroughly absorbed in it to the point of finding myself applauding with the film audience at the end of a performance in the jazz club. However the film wasn't liked by all. Some found it slow and perhaps had preconceived expectations, disappointed that there were no memorable songs. The music for me was great with references to Miles Davies. I loved the costumes, the cinematography and the ending (in a way) but won't say anymore in case somebody hasn't seen it that wants to. I would class it as an art film rather than a music

Dorothy Spain

Quilting

Our quilters are still coming up with new ideas with everyone having suggestions as to how best to achieve the desired effect and then admiring the finished article. We have handbags, small bags, cushions, table-runners, mini- quilts to name but a few of the items in progress and I'm trying to keep a photographic record.



As I'd 'ENCOURAGED' Gill to enter the Madeira Stitch competition she came along to show us the finished machine embroidery before sending it off. Several of us intend going to see it displayed at NEC in March and vote in visitor's choice for favourite item. Let us know if you're interested.
Pat Henderson

Craft Group

January found us at a bit of a loose end but a chance remark by the ladies from WISH soon gave us a new direction. St Helens Hospice wanted crafted flowers to decorate their restyled café area so

felting and folding commenced. Most popular by far though was a chance to set fire to our fabric – albeit in a small and hopefully controlled way,



to make singed peonies. The results were very satisfying and the

house remained intact!!! (Photo of the finished flowers on the front cover)

February sees us continuing the charity theme. Lesley highlighted the need for crocheted octopus to sooth



premature babies. We have made a start..... Be patient Lesley we will deliver but some of us are starting on squares to hone our skills. These are still useful as apparently the mother wears them in her bra before transferring them to the cot so the babe can get used to her smell.
Gill

Singing Group

Singing for fun continues to be held at Marie's home, 32 Ashfield Drive, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Nothing is beyond the repertoire of this enthusiastic group who last week demonstrated just how Frank Sinatra should sing.

Garden Gang

Even though we have had a few sunny and mild days I hope none of you have been tempted to cut back old growth on your garden plants as this despite looking untidy does offer some protection from the cold weather, particularly cold winds we're experiencing.

I have dug our WI bed on the allotment with a generous amount of manure spread ready to plant when weather conditions are right. The blackcurrant cuttings we planted have all taken and more available if anyone would like some. I have seed potatoes "chitting" and several types of onion sets purchased but happy to receive suggestions as to what seeds you'd like to try this year. As soon as weather improves I'll be "On the Plot" on Monday mornings.

Pat Henderson

Trips and Outings

We have the following trips arranged over the next month:

Tuesday 14th February
Lion at the Wigan Empire at 2
11.30am.

Tickets are £4.25 on the day.

PANCAKE DAY @ PARBOLD WI on 28th Feb'17. @
Parbold Village Hall from 10.30am to 1.30pm.
Please enter names on list if you wish to attend.

Wednesday 1st March
Strictly Murder at Wigan Little Theatre at 7.30pm

Monday 6th March
Made in Dagenham at Adlington Community at 7.30pm. The price is £8.00 per ticket so please add your name to the list at the WI meeting on Monday 13th February.

Forthcoming Events

Standish WI Fashion Show
Thursday 6th April, 7.30pm at St Wilfred's Parish Hall. Tickets £8 including light refreshments are available from Barbara's of Standish.

Saturday April 8th at 2pm at the Octagon.
Tenant of Wildfell Hall.
Tickets are ordered for the 16 people on the list. Now sold out.

Dutch Bulb Fields trip 25th to 28th April.

26th April Wigan Little Theatre Salt of the Earth 7.30.

BEACON GROUP MEETING - Ladybridge WI to be held @ O'Hulton Conservative Club on Thursday 27th April '17 From 7.30pm - 10.30pm. Tickets £8 incl. refreshments

Saturday 6th May
I Capture the Castle at the Octagon at 2pm

Saturday 27th May
Winter Hill at the Octagon at 2pm

Wednesday 7th June
The Importance of Being Earnest at Wigan Little Theatre at 7.30pm

Saturday 17th June
Talking Heads at the Octagon at 3pm.

Thursday 22nd June
A full day out to Sizergh Castle and the Strickland Arms near Kendal in Cumbria.

Hazel and Pat
As ever suggestions welcome.

NFWI News

ANNUAL MEETING: Wednesday 7th June 2017 @
The Echo Arena, Liverpool.

ACWW

There will be table-top sale Sat. 8th April '17
@ Barton Village Hall, Garstang Rd. PR3 5HE.
Proceeds to ACWW. If interested please contact
Elaine Cuzner Tel. 01257 452534 for details.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held at the
Southport Theatre, Promenade, Southport on
Wednesday 8th March '17. Time 10.45am - 3.30pm.
See information leaflets at February meeting.
Closing date for tickets: Thursday 23rd February '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.
Information at February meeting.

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

POLICING INTERNET/PROTECTING CHILDREN
Date: Wednesday 15th Mar '17. Time: 2.00pm-4.00pm.
@ Houghton Village Hall, Houghton, Backburn Old Rd.
Houghton PR5 0SG. Cost £8 incl. 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: 10.00am - 3.30pm. Cost £18. Bring packed lunch.
Important: See flyer for materials needed.
Closing date: Thursday 23rd March '17.

SHOW TIPS for COUNTY SHOW. See venues + dates:
Saturday 1st April '17. WI Office 10.00 - 12.00
Monday 10th April '17. Cloughton Mem. Hall 1.30-3.00pm.
Saturday 22 April '17. WI Office 10.00 - 12.00 mid-day.
Monday 24th April '17. The Barlow, Edgworth. 1.00-3.00
Closing date..

LADIES IN HARMONY WI CHOIR on Saturday 8th April '17
@ Hornby Village Institute-Lancaster, @ 7.30pm
Cost £7. See flyer for contact information.

AGENDA CONFERENCE
Brindle Comm. Hall, Brindle, Chorley. Tue. 25th April '17
Time: 1.00 for 1.30 to 3.30. Closing date: 13th April '17.

CARD MAKING CLASS on Wed. 10th or Sat. 13th May '17
Venue: LFWI Office, Leyland. Time: 10.00 - 1.30pm.
Cost £18 - Tutor: Lynda Drummond.
Closing date: Thursday 27th April '17.

WILLOW WEAVING 'Fat ball bird feeder and hearts'
Venue: LFWI Offices at 10.00am - 3.30pm on:
Tue. 16 May - Fri. 19 May - Sat. 20 May - Mon. 22 May
Tue. 23 May - Sat. 10 June '17.
Cost: £18 plus £20 for equipment you will need.
See flyer for info. Closing date Wed. 19th April '17.

PANCAKE DAY @ PARBOLD WI on 28th Feb '17. @
Parbold Village Hall from 10.30am to 1.30pm.
Please enter names on list if you wish to attend.

EXHIBITION of
WATERCOLOUR and PASTEL PAINTINGS by
ANNE COUCHMAN at
ASTLEY FARM HOUSE GALLERY, CHORLEY
MARCH 1st - 28th
Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
Saturday and Sunday
12.00 - 3.30



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
In addition there are excerpts and full length videos to watch of some past events.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

February

2017



www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk