

Welcome to Kathryn Ashton who has come to collect our 'crochet of octopuses' there is no official collective noun. I am sure they will be put to good use and have already served a purpose in encouraging some of us to learn to crochet or hone our skills. We will have someone from both the Brick and Women's Refuge to give us more insight into their causes later in the year.



We have received some great news from the local Co-op, who named us as a local worthy charity. Part of your dividend; those of you that shop there, has been amassing over the last year and on 14th April they will be announcing the total raised, which is nearing £2000. I hasten to add this isn't how we are financing the holiday to Amsterdam! We had to give an account of how we would use the money and the committee suggested 'First Aid' courses and possibly a defibrillator to be placed at the Fingerpost. This was voted on last year at one of the meetings. I have no further details at the moment but will keep you informed.

There will be a collection during this meeting for Wigan Hospice in memory of Audrey Leyland, for those unable to attend the funeral.

Happy Birthday to Anne Couchman, Joyce, Doreen H, Avril, Dorothy, Helen C and me!

March Meeting Dillon my assistance dog

One very pretty little labradoodle dog called Dillon stole the show at the March meeting as he demonstrated his caring skills to members. Since Deborah Cornwall was badly hurt in a climbing accident an assistant dog has been a necessity, helping her cope with her daily tasks. These dogs are required to undergo rigorous training before being officially accepted to take quite a lot of responsibility for their owners. Dillon is almost through his 3 part training. He displayed self-control as he passed his bowl of tasty morsels resisting any temptation to stop and gobble them up; obeying orders to sit, stand and move when required and showed how he could put in and take out washing from the machine – not forgetting to close the door! He displayed his retrieving skills by heading towards the back of the room to where Deborah's mobile had been planted and bringing it back to her to get his reward. Other tasks were displayed much to the amusement of the members. We wish them both well and that Dillon that will go on to be a very able mature dog in his important 'assistance working dog' role. Helen



Competition Results – a Dog not live!

1st Gill Brown
2nd Marie Walsh
3rd Marlene Winward

Next Meeting

Monday 8th May, 'Wild Flowers of Lancashire' a talk by Russell Hedley. Invited back by popular demand.

No Competition. Instead there is a plant sale, please bring all those extra seedlings, rooted cuttings, or unwanted plants and help support your WI.

Lunch Group

It is difficult to fit everything in this month with Easter and school holidays which involve increased granny duties and the Holland Tulip trip which is looming large. We thought we would combine lunch with our 'Ideas' session when we encourage everyone to give some input to our co-operative entry at the county show. The book we have chosen is "The Darling Buds of May" by H E Bates. We wanted something that was instantly recognisable but which we hope no-one else will think of, hence avoiding the classics. It also has lots of potential creatively which is most important. So we thought lunch at Truly Scrumptious would be the best option, we can agree a date at the meeting. Gill

Theatre Group

The Octagon Theatre: The Tenant of Wildfell Hall



We all met up in the theatre café first for a delicious pre-performance lunch that was enjoyed by everyone and was a lovely start to the afternoon.

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall is a new adaption by Deborah McAndrew, based on the novel by

Anne Brontë. Directed by Elizabeth Newman, a cast of 8 professionals, a young boy and a very well behaved dog bring it beautifully to life.

A mysterious young woman arrives at Wildfell Hall, an old mansion of Elizabethan era with a young son. She determines to lead an independent existence, but her new neighbours don't want to let her alone. Only one of them, a young farmer, Gilbert Markham, succeeded in revealing her secrets.

The actors held our attention from start to finish as we slowly pieced together what was going on. Truly gripping from beginning to end when we were willing two characters in particular to have their happy ending and the relief came right in the closing moments. A most enjoyable performance. Gill Davies.

Cinema Group

The Viceroy's House was the film we went to see this month. Starring Hugh Bonneville as Lord Mountbatten and Gillian Anderson as Lady Mountbatten. I never knew about the displacement of so many people and what an awful choice was dealt them in the partition of India. Churchill's devious plan if the detail can be believed.

Lord Mountbatten was tasked with overseeing the transition of British independence. But meets with conflict as different sides clash in the monumental change. A very moving film, left me feeling I must read up about this part of history to find out if all the facts were true. Very thought provoking film. Marilyn.

Art Group

The first meeting of the art group got off to a flying start with 13 ladies present. We were somewhat squashed as our first meeting clashed with the card making group, but we will be in a much bigger room in future. Everyone bought pictures to enlarge and start drawing. After what was meant to be a quick introduction to using a grid to enlarge our art work, we chatted about pencils, papers, putty rubbers and fixative (to stop our work smudging). It was then down to work to put theory into practice. I had expected lively chatter, but no, everyone was so busy concentrating that hardly a word was spoken for well over an hour. You will be pleased to know we have some very talented budding artists. Giraffes, kingfishers, cottages and butterflies were amongst the items being drawn and there were some super results. For those who had finished the basic drawing it was time to add shading and more detail to our work. We decided to relax with tea, coffee and biscuits after the deep concentration, taking time to admiring each other's work. All too soon the two hours had flown by and it was time to pack up. In the scramble to pack up our various bits and pieces I forgot to photograph all the lovely works in progress, but I promise lots of lovely photos in future. With Truly Scrumptious just around the corner a number decided another cup of tea was in order, proving that the library was the perfect venue. If you have always wanted to try drawing and painting please do come along.

The cost of the sessions will be £2.00 including a cup of tea. Hester

Quilting

Having studied the schedule and aware that our ladies are making some stunning items I'm confident we should have some super items for County Show this year and it's never too early to start! We already had several items we thought were suitable for Haigh and I was thinking for once we were ahead of the game. Ah well that will teach me!!

Unfortunately Haigh Show has now been cancelled this year as the ground has not recovered sufficiently to make it suitable. I'm

sure many can still remember how bad it was at the end of the day last year.

On a much happier note you'll remember I encouraged Gill to enter the machine embroidery category at the craft event at NEC Birmingham.

This show runs for four days and is attended by many skilled sewers and although "The Judges" didn't choose Gill's item she was chosen as The Visitors Choice where all attending can vote for their favourite piece of work. Her work will now go on tour at future craft events. Reminds me of LBD which toured and was seen by far more than the winner. Hugely satisfying to be chosen by your peers I think. Pat



Craft Group

We had great fun making our collages and were amazed at how artistic they looked.



There is so much else going on in April that I can only fit one workshop in which will be Thursday 20th April but will be all day so bring a packed lunch. We will be making a bag for life that packs into its own attached holder to fit in your handbag, so never again will you have to pay 5p for a carrier bag.



Recently Jo and I went to a craft workshop to make a felt covered vase. So guess what we have planned for the future! Gill

Singing Group

We continue to thrive and this month we have attempted to harmonize in some of the songs which lends themselves to it (that means the easier ones). We are by no means a choir, just a group of like-minded ladies who like to get together to sing, laugh a lot and have a good natter! Our numbers are sometimes depleted due to other commitments but in spite of this we continue to enjoy our evenings together. We feel as a group that it would be beneficial if we had a few more members so if anyone feels the urge to 'sing with no strings' we would welcome them with open arms. Due to holidays and the WLT production our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd May at my house.

Marie

Garden Gang

Ever mindful of 'Health and Safety' and aware that the trip hazards are far too numerous on my Allotment at the moment I haven't been able to host our group for a while. You're not forgotten though as I've potted up strawberry runners and come up with a way of recycling plastic milk bottles to hold them.

Despite a fair bit of sunshine the soil isn't really warm enough yet and plantlets tend to 'sulk' in cold wet conditions.

Many seeds can now be started indoors and kitchen window sill usually suitable. Salad leaves especially the cut and come again types, can easily be grown in the small plastic containers such as you get tomatoes, grapes etc in from supermarket. Cardboard inners from toilet rolls are excellent for starting peas and beans as these then develop long roots with no disturbance when you plant them out as you plant the cardboard as well.

Plenty to be getting on with then for you all.

Trips and Outings

We have the following trips arranged over the next month:

Dutch Bulb Fields trip 25th to 28th April. We are going to the Keukenhof Gardens, Ann Frank's House, a canal cruise and a variety of museums.

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

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 6th May I Capture the Castle 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 The Annual Garden Trip this year will be to Sizergh Castle which is a National Trust property in Cumbria. We have booked the Strickland Arms for lunch and the food there is excellent. Please add your name to the list as we are hoping to get a coach for 33 people at a cost of £10.00 per person. Sizergh Castle is £9.45 but free if you are a member of the National Trust.

14th December matinee performance of 'Beautiful'.

Payment now due £40

Hazel and Pat

NFWI News

NFWI TO launch new 'My WI' website @ AGM 7th June'17. Info April + May meetings.

RESOLUTIONS: Alleviating loneliness + Plastic Soup have been selected to go forward to Annual Mtg.

DENMAN OPEN DAYS: See flyer Apr/May meetings

Dates for your diary from LFWI

LFWI have booked RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER DAY @ Denman College 26th+27th Nov'17. Info. May Mtg.

AGENDA CONFERENCE to be held Tue.25th April @ Brindle Community Hall, Brindle, Chorley. Time: 1.00 for 1.30-3.30. Cl/date Thur.13thApril'17.

CARD MAKING CLASS will be held at LFWI Office Wednesday 10th or Saturday 13th May'17. Cost £18 Time: 10.00-3.30. Tutor: Lynda Drummond Closing date: Thursday 27th April'17.

WILLOW WEAVING: 'Fat ball feeder + Hearts' will be held @ LFWI Offices on following days: Tue 16 - Fri 19 - Sat - 20 - Mon 22 - Tue 23 MAY + Sat. 10 June'17. Cost £18 + £20 for willow/equip. Time: 10.00am - 3.30pm. Bring packed lunch. Closing date: Wednesday 19th April'17.

VINTAGE/STYLE NOTEBOOK COVER+PAPER BINDING A fun + informal workshop. Venue: Leyland Office Friday 2nd + Sat. 3rd June. Time 10.00am - 3.30pm Cost £18. Bring packed lunch. Cl'dt. Thur.18th May'17.

GO ORIENTEERING @ Williamson Park, Lancaster. Wed. 14th June. Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm. Cost £5 each Closing date: Thursday 18th May'17.

A visit to CHATSWORTH HOUSE has been arranged for Thur.22nd June. Cost £30. Coach to collect members from Leyland 9.00am. Closing date: Thur 25th May'17.

CIRCULAR WALK AROUND PENDLESIDE Thur.4th July Venue: Meet @ Barley Green Car Park. £1 fee. Cost:£2 each. Time:10.30-2.30. Cl/date 20 June'17.

FLORAL ART FOR THE BEGINNER @ Leyland Office on Fri 7th or Sat 8th July. Time: 10-3.30 Cost £18 + £5 for additional materials. Bring packed lunch.

VOLLEYBALL + ROUNDER'S TASTER will be held @ West View Leisure Centre, Ribbleson, Preston on Tue 11 July'17 @ 12.45-3.30. Cost: £7.50 each. Closing date Tuesday 27th June'17.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

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

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