

What happened to summer?! May was glorious – and we have the photos to prove it. June has been horrid so far, hopefully it will improve especially as I am going to have another Afternoon Garden Tea Thursday 27th July 2-5pm. Looking forward to welcoming you all. With your help there will be lots to eat and drink including Pimms and Elderflower cordial and the opportunity to meet old friends from Aspull and Haigh as well as other local WI's.

Happy Birthday Connie and Jean. It is a special birthday for Eileen Quail this month so we have sent a card from everyone as she is unable to get to meetings.

Sue Fernside has retired from the committee due to other commitments, including granny duties with young William. Thanks Sue for your unstinting efforts for A&HWI. No one will forget what a fabulous model you were with the LBD or your starring roles in CindyElla., WICzar of Us and sorry we killed you off in our Murder Mystery. It has been great fun having you on the committee. Gill

Last Meeting

Monday, 8th May

It was a pleasure to welcome Russel Hedley back as a speaker. His enthusiasm for nature is infectious. This talk was on the wild flowers of Lancashire. Living as we do in such close proximity to Haigh Woodland Park and the canal we are lucky to see most of the flowers that were featured on a regular basis. It was interesting to see how many of the flowers were grouped together and their common names. During bowling the following day Joyce and Mary recognised some of the flowers mentioned. Gill

There wasn't a competition in May but we had a plant sale instead which raised £39

Next Meeting

Monday 10th July. Strawberry Stroll. Join us for a walk in Borsdane Wood (weather permitting) followed by scones, strawberries and cream. There will be a quiz for those who prefer to stay at the hall. Shirley Thornton, Federation Chairman will be joining us at this meeting.

Competition; 'Flower arrangement in a jam jar'. These will be used to decorate the tables. You are asked to put coins on those you like. The arrangement with most coins will win the competition. All money raised is donated to ACWW.

Co-Op Donation

The committee are busy gathering information on both First aid courses and defibrillators. First and foremost we need to know how many members would like to attend the course which will be 1 day in duration (6 hours) and result in a certificate! The idea is to enable members to have the security of knowing what to do in an emergency. Please don't think you will be expected to offer your services worldwide, but knowledge gives us confidence.

Please sign the list if you would like to be included and you will be informed of further details.

NFWI AGM

Maureen, Marie, Joyce Gill and I travelled to the Echo Stadium at Liverpool on Wednesday 7th June'17. The proceedings began with the singing of Jerusalem. The Mayor of Liverpool welcomed everyone. Janice Langley NFWI Chair addressed the meeting, by introducing 'My WI' Website information which will be available from Monday 12th June'17. She encouraged members to support Denman College by attending organised courses, providing financial support to maintain this lovely building. The Treasurer gave a financial update i.e. Subscriptions etc. Prizes were awarded for the Lady Denman Cup, Huxley Cup + the Elizabeth Bell Challenge Cup. Resolutions for and against were put to the membership and voted by the link members. The result for both Alleviating loneliness and Keep micro-plastic fibres out of our oceans were both accepted.

The first guest speaker was Jo Fairley who began her talk by referring to a negative comment on her school report stating that she was 'unlikely to achieve beyond the 'Girl Friday stage..... in her secretarial career'. She was prompted by this remark to concentrate her efforts by hard work and determination in order to prove herself. At 23 years of age she became the first female magazine editor. In 1991 she was Co-Founder of Green & Black's Organic Chocolate, the first product to display the 'Fair trade' logo. Fair trade was a previous WI resolution which is now recognised worldwide. The rand was sold in 2015 to Cadburys. She went on to open a high street bakery and perfumery. When asked her recipe for success she replied: 'Having a good product – a flair for design and strong values!' She brought to our attention a cartoon of a man on a

diving board with the caption 'If you don't do it you'll never know what would have happened if you had done it!'

Susie Dent from Countdown fame enthralled members with her knowledge of how language and spelling have evolved. The talk was light-hearted as she brought our attention to the words and meanings from a bygone time. One example 'Thunder Plump' would describe a thunderstorm. Malaphors were touched on i.e. 'We'll burn that bridge when we come to it'. Surprisingly texting jargon i.e. 2 U B 4 can be compared to similar forms of communication years ago! Emily Dickinson may have approved as she quoted... 'Celebrate new words as they enrich our lives' whereas Roald Dahl warns that 'the trouble with words is that you don't know whose mouth they've been in!'

The meeting came to an end with a little sadness as Janice Langley announced her resignation from the Board of NFWI. She extended her thanks and good wishes to everyone, who in turn gave her a standing ovation. A group of musicians appeared and began to play songs from the 60's – the members of course took to the 'dance' floor. The meeting was closed with the singing of the anthems. Helen.

Worm Charming



St Elizabeths 10th June.

It rained hard in the morning but at 1pm when Barbara and I arrived at plot 28, the sky was overcast but fine. Barbara worked like a Trojan prodding the squelchy ground and managed to find about fourteen worms to my feeble effort of three but I did get our Big Jim worm which appeared near my feet five minutes before time up. I'm sure there is a lake underneath that field.

We then adjourned for tea and cakes, meeting up with Maureen Dittman and Hazel Tickle who had brought her granddaughter along. Unfortunately we did not win the longest worm or the most numbers, that went to two young girls who bagged (not sure that is the right word) 95 worms. Hi! Ho! Better luck next year. Mary

Lunch Group

Lunch 19th May

There were just four ladies who attended this lunch held at The Paddock restaurant, Wrightington. The Paddock provides simple home cooked food in beautiful relaxed surroundings, being comfortable and spacious with views out across the fields. We enjoyed a very pleasant lunch of more than ample portions for a reasonable price, followed by coffee and some retail therapy in Derby House. Gill Davies

We have 2 suggestions for lunch in July either Noel Chadwicks in Standish or alternatively to go to Fur Clemp Central Park, Montrose Ave. I spoke to Ann Fairhurst they would be delighted if we would attend as our donations would greatly help the Real Junk Food Project in Wigan.

Theatre Group

WLT

The 2017/2018 performances are now listed on their website should any of you wish to check before deciding whether to renew your season ticket. Our treasurer Barbara has agreed to collect payment for these. Cost is £60.00 cash or cheque made payable to Aspull and Haigh WI. I've had a few emails but if you all could let me know at tomorrow's meeting as I've to return form with payment by 9th July. I know some have decided not to renew so there are seats available.

We attend on the second Wednesday of the performance but WLT allow you to change for another night should it be necessary. Pat Henderson

Salt of the Earth

This play covers 40 years in the lives of 2 families living in a mining village in Yorkshire. We first see two sisters, Annie and May as giddy young women having fun at the dance hall taking an interest in the boys, in particular two boys who work in the pit. May likes Harry and Annie likes Roy. The sisters marry their sweethearts and marriage begins to shape their lives. Mary and Harry soon have their only child, Paul, whilst Annie and Roy decide to wait since Roy has ambitions to own a shop and they need to save their money. Unfortunately Roy is killed in a mining accident and the sisters become less close. Annie is grieving and May

becomes peevish and bitter, spending her time squabbling with her husband and cleaning her house. In the meanwhile her son Paul is growing up and starts to show an interest tin girls which makes his mother very jealous. Paul is comforted at this time by his Aunt Annie which doesn't please May. He eventually goes off to university and gets his degree which almost overwhelms his father but his mother seems resentful of his new life. He becomes a writer. He has grown from an innocent young boy to a deeply concerned young man who longs for the comfort and familiarity of his backgrounds but at the same time trying to flee from it. This play was considered to be possibly autobiographical since John Godber, the playwright, came from a mining village in Yorkshire. A slow start to a play which gathered momentum in the second act. Marie

Art Group

A Brush with Acrylics

With our work tables covered in a plastic table cloth most of our members braced themselves to try their hand at painting with acrylics. Brushes and sponges – yes sponges – were at the ready as we attempted landscapes. We started with primed canvas papers, jugs of water by every body's side. Shock, horror, lots of grass and trees to paint but only one tube of green paint. Lots of experimenting was the order of the day to produce different shades of green from two or three yellows and two blues. Paint brushes were used along with natural sponges to create the textures of trees, paths and grasses. The time passed so quickly and as you can see from the picture our paintings were not finished by the end of the session. Week two saw most returning to the fight to master our paintings. Some started new works, others continued with works in progress. One or two continued with pastels as the group have all grown to really enjoy the feel and results that can be achieved with them. The sigh of relief as someone says 'Is it time for a brew?'. Shoulders relax, brushes are washed and art work put on display at the end of the room so we can all look at each other's work, and surprise, surprise 'Do you know that's turned out better than I thought', 'Oh, don't they all look good'. After a tidy, tea, coffee and biscuits, the more chocolatey the better, it's time to finish yet another session. Most of the work in the photo is still in progress, I cannot wait to see them finished over the next few weeks. Hester



History Walk



Despite very cold winds and sleeting rain four intrepid walkers, Hilda, Gill, Ann and Lesley (guide) set forth armed with Wigan Town Centre Trail guide. The walk started at the bottom of Standishgate. Lesley gave a brief history of the Roman period. The importance of Wigan (Cococium) in Roman times is now confirmed with finds from 2005 which revealed Wigan was a very important fortress with over 500 soldiers based here. As we walked through Standishgate in the footsteps of roman soldiers, mediaeval weavers, potters, felt hat makers, bell makers, royalist soldiers and later coalminers, mill workers and iron workers and their families. It is evident that Wigan throughout the centuries has remained an important place for trade and industry. Walking through the mediaeval street designed for foot and handcart, we arrived at the centre of mediaeval Wigan where the now

demolished Moot Hall was. Thankfully the days of bull baiting, executions and stocks are long gone. Gill and Hilda added stories they knew of old and present day Wigan. Wigan Parish Church was open and a warm welcome given. Tours are available on request and the Book of condolence was signed for the victims and families of Manchester. Bluecoats school was open and serving hot soup, sandwiches, cakes bread and an assortment of fruit for free or a donation. It is open every Tuesday 12-3. It is a pay as you feed enterprise organised by 'Fur Clemt' The Real Junk Food Project. Thanks were given to Suzie and Graham for their services to the Wigan community. The Old Courts building previously known as Gerald Winstanley House was open and a walk through the courtroom and judges chamber was very interesting. Finally lunch at The Raven was had in excellent company.

Quilting



Bags in various shapes and sizes still seem the most popular items with our quilters. However many other items of handwork feature as many of our ladies just bring along whatever they're working on and we share

opinions and suggestions. All adds to the enjoyment of sharing knowledge and skills. I'm trying to perfect a 'flying geese' block which I then intend making into a 'dutchman's puzzle' this is a practice piece before I commence a wall hanging I've had for a while!! I just love some of the names to these blocks.

Please feel welcome to call in and have a look at what we do. Pat Henderson

Singing for Fun

After discussion we have decided to suspend our singing sessions until the end of September. This is the time of year when we are turning our thoughts to holidays, taking care of grandchildren, enjoying outdoor activities and taking advantage of the longer days.

We will, therefore look forward to our new season and hopefully some new members of our very jolly group! Marie.

Craft Group

Crafting turns sugary!



First let's set the scene, glorious sunshine, patio furniture, a sun shade and bees industrially buzzing among the flowers. The only thing missing from our crafting sessions this month were cocktails – at least for the first three sessions. We sat outside in Gill's garden learning to craft animals for the first two weeks, though the weather proved too hot in the end for the modelling paste. Week one hens were made in the morning, surprisingly easy. Then it was – 'let's try pigs.' So, after a break for lunch and Rob's delicious cake it was down to colouring our sugar paste. With



various shades of pink we pulled and manipulated the paste but this was a step too far in the heat of the afternoon, with giggles or groans our pigs wobbled, cracked or began to crystalize. Still, we are the WI, we can adapt to crisis, so we had a good chat and more tea and cake instead.

The following week we made geese, but again the heat defeated us somewhat, but a good time was had.

Week three was a change of theme, with the regional show coming up a single red rose was the basis of the day. Everyone took their flower paste and coloured it pink, we would be dusting the roses to get them red after they were completed. We all began three roses, making first the central cone then wrapping layers of petals around the cone. Time went flying by and at the end of the session we had partly opened flowers and one or two fully finished flowers. Lots of giggling again this session as many of us ended up using other people's balls of pink paste by accident.

Week four of sugar crafting arrived and it rained, so this time we worked inside. Gill decided to try dusting her roses with petal dust to see how different they would look and what a difference it made. One bright vermillion and one deep, dark red rose. We still have work to do on our roses but you can see how beautiful our garden of roses are looking in the photo.



Hester

Garden Gang

Work on the greenhouse is now almost complete and I hope to give you all the Grand Tour soon. Problems now are how to keep pigeons, squirrels, mice, moles plus the usual slugs and snails off the crops. It's summer bedding time now both in the ground, in containers or hanging baskets. There should just be time to sow more peas and beans to get a good crop and salad leaves and radish, beetroot etc can be sown in succession to keep a supply going. Ideas and tips are always welcome
Pat

Bowling Group

We haven't been bowling this month (June) as the weather has been atrocious but last month we managed to bowl every Tuesday morning. Doreen and Beverly, two new recruits are making good progress. Judith our third new member unfortunately has had other commitments but hopes to resume shortly. Our numbers are increasing with 6/8 members per week which may be more to do with chatting and laughter than our bowling skills. If anyone is interested in joining, do have a word with me at the next meeting,
Mary

Trips and Outings

Trips and events in June

There is a Medieval Walk on Tuesday 13th June. It's a 90 minute walk around Wigan led by Lesley and taking in lots of historical information about our town. We are hoping to have coffee and cake after the walk.

Talking Heads at the Octagon on Saturday 17th June at 2pm we are meeting for lunch at the Octagon Cafe at 12.30pm.

Over Hulton WI Cream Tea. Monday 26th June 2pm. £3.50 at Over Hulton Conservative Club

Our annual garden trip is to Sizergh Castle in Cumbria and then on to Barton Grange Garden Centre in Garstang on Thursday 22nd June There are still a few places available if any friends would like to join us. We are meeting at St Elizabeth's Parish Hall at 9.00am and the coach will pick us up from there. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sizergh>

Horwich WI Flower Arranging demonstration 'Summer Scented Breeze'. Monday 3rd July Pennine Suite, RMI Club. .30pm £2 tickets. Please book tickets.

Ladybridge WI Tea and cake at the Community Centre, Friday 21st July, 2-3.30pm.

Clayton leWoods WI Summer Concert Friday 21st July 7.30pm at Balshaws CE High School.

Aspull and Haigh WI Summer Garden Party. Thursday 27th July 2 - 4.30pm at Woodend Cottage.

Friends of Haigh 1940's Event at the Stables Haigh Hall. We will be having a stall so watch this space.



The European trip next year will be to Majorca on Tuesday April 23rd 2018 for 3 nights. We are flying to Palma and staying in a 4 star hotel the Palas Athena in the city. if you would like to join us please contact Hazel or

Pat .We are booking via Kiwi Travel and need to pay a deposit of £59 per person in the next few weeks and definitely by 30th June.

14th December matinee performance of 'Beautiful'.

Hazel and Pat

NFWI News

NFWI: Launch 'My WI' website via MCS. Key dates/login instructions. See leaflet. RESOLUTIONS: Both resolutions were successful. 'Alleviating Loneliness/Plastic Soup

NFWI: Dates for your diary MEMBERS' OPEN DAYS 2017. Visit the NFWI Headquarters in London Wednesday & Thursday 22 + 23rd November '17. Closing date 7th July'17. See info. June meeting.

LADY DENMAN CUP COMPETITION 2017 Invitation to all members to write piece of poetry - 'What they love that could be lost to climate change' Closing entries Monday 10th July'17.

LFWI News

200 + CLUB: Members invited to join/renew subs. at June and July meetings. Closing date Fri. 28th July'17.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

LFWI MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT MEETINGS: Wed.12th July + Friday 14th July. Details @ June mtg.

LFWI RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER DAY-Denman College Sunday 26th- Monday 27th November'17. Deposit £50 required by 28th June'17.

COUNTY SHOW: The Show Committee are looking to Recruit stewards for the County Show Wednesday 27th + Thursday 28th September'17. If you could give up 2 hours of your time on either day please contact Pamela Wade – Pamela.wade1@btinternet. Include your name-WI – email + phone number. Please indicate day-morning or afternoon availability.

CIRCULAR WALK ROUND PENDLESIDE to be held on Thursday 4th July. Venue: Meet at Barley Green Car Park BB12 9JX - £1 fee. Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm. Cost £2 per person. Closing date: Tue 20th June'17.

FLORAL ART FOR BEGINNERS @ LFWI Offices on Friday 7th or Saturday 8th July'17. 10.00am – 3.30pm Cost £18 + £5 for additional materials. Take 2 arrangements home. Closing date: 19th June'17.

VOLLEYBALL/ROUNDERS TASTER DAY will be held @ West View Leisure Centre, Ribbleson, Preston PR1 5EP Tuesday 11th July from 12.45 – 3.30pm. Cost £7.50 pp. Closing date: Tuesday 27th June'17.

COOKERY + HORTICULTURE DEMONSTRATION DAY 'ON WITH THE SHOW' will be held Thursday 3rd August @ Brindle Community Hall, Water St. Brindle. Chorley. Time: 10.30 - 3.30. Cost £15. Closing date: 17 July'17

HAMBLETON WI – 5 Mile Ramble on Wed. 23 August. Start 10.30am to 1.00pm approx. Cost £2 per person Meet @ Hambleton Village Hall (FY6 9BZ) Closing date: Thursday 27th July'17.

RIBCHESTER + DISTRICT WI are holding 2 x walks on Saturday 9th Sept. '17. Both walks end with tea and cakes available to buy @ Parish Centre. 1 - Roman R'chester – 2 Ramble from R'chester. Closing date: Wednesday 26th July'17.

LEARN HOW TO MAKE COPPER/SILVER SPINNER RING @ Leyland Offices on Sat. 9th or Tues. 12th Sept. 17 Time 10.00 – 3.30. Cost £20. Tutor: Heather Jones Closing date Thursday 27th July'17.

1 DAY BOWLS TOURNAMENT-W'Plumpton & District B'Club PR4 0RU on Sunday 10th Sept.'17. Cost £8pp Start 9.45. Scratch time 10.15. Cl.date 24th July'17.

FUTURE EVENTS LFWI COUNTY SHOW PREVIEW EVENING + DINNER Thursday 7th September'17

LFWI COUNTY SHOW TICKETS: List for members who Wish to attend will be available at July/Aug. meetings. Closing date: Thursday 7 September'17.

GAWTHORPE HALL & OSWALDTWISTLE MILLS Thursday 14th September'17

ULVERSTON MEDITATION CENTRE Tuesday 19th September'17

INVITATIONS See information re travel arrangements OVER HULTON WI: Cream Tea Monday 26th June. HORWICH WI: Flower arranging evening Mon. 3 July. LADYBRIDGE WI: Tea and Cakes Friday 21st July. CLAYTON-LE-WOODS Summer Concert Fri. 21 July.



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

June 2017



www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk

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.