

July proved to be quite an eventful month, which was also financially provident with both the extraordinary meeting and the garden party raising extra funds. Due to the inclement weather we bought a gazebo for our WI garden party. We also intend to purchase a 6-8 ft table so that we will be self-sufficient at future fund raising events. These will be available to members to hire for their own use at £5 each.

Happy Birthday to Margaret Halliwell.
Gill

Last Meeting

This month the meeting was a little bit different. We were pleased to welcome Shirley Thornton LFWI Chair to the meeting. Instead of a speaker the tables were set out with lovely table cloths and members who are creative brought along wild flower arrangements in a jar. There were some really beautiful arrangements and a competition was set up where everyone could place money alongside the arrangements they liked the best. The money raised went to ACWW. Members feeling energetic completed a short walk others not so energetic could stay in the hall and there was a quiz to complete. This was exercising the brain instead of the legs all very enjoyable. Refreshments came in the form of tea, scones, strawberries, jam and cream. A good night with a difference.



Marilyn

Competition

'Wild flowers in a jar'

- 1st – Does anyone recognise the winning arrangement?
- 2nd – Ruth Blakeman
- 3rd – Gill Brown

Next Meeting

Monday 11th September, 'Mercy Ships' a talk by Mrs Frances King. Competition – Any item 'Ship related'.



Extraordinary Meeting Monday 17th July with the BBC!

I found it a privilege to hear Michelle Partington talk about her life, before, during and after her tours of duty in Afghanistan. She told us about her early life, how she was abused as a child and life was tough. When careers advisers came to the school, Michelle felt drawn to the RAF. It was a way out, it would take her away from home and she would have a new life. She was accepted and began a brilliant career. She became a flight lieutenant, qualified as a medic and then a paramedic. She'd done three tours of Afghanistan, giving life-saving treatment on the battlefield and constantly under fire. Many more would have died without her intervention.

So, how did it all go wrong? Michelle went on to explain how before she went on another tour of Afghanistan she couldn't sleep and felt sick. The nightmare images visited her each night, especially the suffering of children she'd experienced. She felt like she couldn't face another shift. Michelle was medically discharged. Back at home she struggled to cope; she felt demoralised and couldn't adjust to civilian life. Her relationship with her fiancé broke up, she was left alone and made plans to kill herself. Michelle was saved by a letter from SSAFA, informing her

that her appointments had been cancelled through non-attendance. She immediately emailed the organisation and asked for help. This was her turning point. With support from SSAFA she ventured outside her house and slowly started her recovery. There is much more to Michelle's story. She has set up a charity, Behind the Mask, and now works for the North West Ambulance Service. Now she has been chosen to compete in the Invictus Games (though she told us she was always last in any race during training). But now she has a new goal to work towards. Instead of remaining a victim of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Michelle has risen in defiance. She really is an amazing woman, a survivor, and a brilliant role model for our young girls and women. Sheila Hinds

We were requested by the BBC to hold this meeting to enable them to film Michelle speaking, as part of a documentary about competitors involved in the Invictus Games. We had less than a week to organise everything, no mean feat as we extended an invitation to 15 local WI's of which 13 attended. We had to restrict numbers to ensure that we had enough chairs! We ran the evening as a 'normal' meeting, Shirley Thornton came to present certificates to Norma and Margaret on achieving 40 years as members of Aspall and Haigh WI. We sang Jerusalem and had notices. It was a little surreal listening to Michelle and being aware of 2 cameras and a microphone moving about – especially at one point when I noticed one cameraman was outside filming through the window, my only thought was wondering when they had last been cleaned! The evening finished with tea and cakes – and what a wonderful array of cakes there were. Thanks to all the committee for organising everything and ensuring it all ran smoothly and thank you everyone for the cakes. It was an amazing evening and it was a privilege to meet and to listen to Michelle. Gill



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Summer Garden Party

Our Summer garden party was held at Woodend Cottage on Thursday 27 July. A few showers did nothing to dampen the



spirits of the many WI ladies who attended our garden party from across the region. A cottage garden full of summer flowers & a glass of Pimm's on arrival brought an immediate smile to our faces! The Bring & Buy stall offered a shopping opportunity & a raffle gave us a chance to try our luck at winning a prize. House & garden were soon buzzing with conversation & there was not a vacant seat to be found in house or garden. The sun came out & the buffet table was groaning with good things to eat. Teapots were at the ready & an orderly queue formed for afternoon tea. Sandwiches, cake and more cake were soon gone! Refills of teapots were required. The kitchen was a hive of activity & all credit goes to our WI ladies, you know who you are, who worked so hard behind the scenes to make everything run so smoothly. All too soon it was time to say goodbye to new friends & old & to Gill, Rob & Rosie who kindly let us share their home & garden for a lovely summer afternoon. Judith

We had 70 attend, mainly from visiting groups and raised over £400

Lunch Group

Due to summer holiday commitments we are not meeting for lunch until September.

Theatre Group

Octagon Theatre Trip: Alan Bennett, Talking Heads

What insight Alan Bennett draws from the minutiae of other people's lives! Most of us will remember his monologues shown on the BBC over 15 years ago and the iconic performances of Alan Bennett, himself, Thora Hird and Patricia Routledge. It was very hard not to think of these during the three pieces performed at the Octagon. However the monologues were still a treat and the actors brought their own sense of poignancy and pathos to the bittersweet tales of seemingly ordinary and uneventful lives. In these finely observed pieces the underlying theme was that of social isolation and the insidious nature of loneliness, sadly as relevant in society today as it ever has been. How lucky are we to be able to share a meal together and an afternoon at the theatre in good company. Ruth Blakeman

Wigan Little Theatre, 12th July – Ladies Day

The play portrayed a group of four heavily-accented Hull women taking the day off work from their dreary jobs in a fish factory, slipping off their hairnets to don their fascinators and head to the races. Pearl is leaving to spend more time with her husband - not retiring, as she is keen to point out - and on the spur of the moment she decides to celebrate with an all-girls outing to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot, the year it was held at York. Once there the foursome, themselves fish out of water, make the most of this once in a lifetime opportunity to mix with posh people. This was a tale of fractured lives, thwarted ambitions, secrets, hidden heartache and enduring friendships, all put together in this very entertaining and at times hilarious, comedy-drama that appears to have been enjoyed by all who attended. Gill Davies

Tea and Cakes

LADYBRIDGE WI – Friday 21st July 2017. On this lovely afternoon Avril - Jean and I visited our WI neighbours in Ladybridge to join with them at their Annual 'Tea and Cakes' afternoon in the Community Centre. Although these local events present similar programmes, it is nevertheless good to have the opportunity to meet up with members to exchange ideas - or just chat! These dedicated Ladybridge ladies had obviously worked hard to make the afternoon a success – tea and delicious cakes were in abundance... Money raising stalls i.e. Bring + Buy – Pick a Bag – Plants - and I'm sure that the majority of us won a prize in the raffle! Proceeds as always were given to a local charity. Helen

Art Group

July already gone and now its August. In our two July meetings we finished our first water colour painting of fields, crops and tree, which we had started and photographed for our last write up. In our second meeting of July we completed, well almost, a second painting – a sunset seascape. Very adventurous! Sadly a little too adventurous, OK so nearly everyone called it a disaster. The sky went beautifully with glorious sunsets painted, but the sea defeated us, oh well its part of the learning curve. Our members are a bouncy crew though and news that one of our members who paints with another art club had sold a painting, the only painting sold in the whole art club exhibition, thrilled everyone. It certainly proved a talking point and got a few members thinking of what our fledgling art club could do. Ohhhh what about a trip, galleries were named, places too, then the idea of a painting and photography trip came up, a zoo to capture wild animals, Chester, too big, Blackpool and oh we could then go take photos of

seascapes too. Not in the school holidays, but September would be a busy month with the regional competition. October was settled on. Then came the next idea, why didn't we hold an exhibition, not too soon but definitely exhibit. Sigh, well the art club is definitely going to be busy in the next few months – all suggestions of exhibition places gratefully received. No photos of work this month – everyone refused to have their seascapes photographed!
Hester

Quilting Group

The success of this group is due in no small part to a sharing of techniques learned by our members' attendance at other classes and of skills from other disciplines.

A crazy patchwork I learned at Standish WI quilt group Doreen took to her quilt class where she discovered another way of sewing it. Photo is bag from this technique. Our advisor Pam with whom I attend Standish WI group is member of Bolton quilters and shares her knowledge which I pass on. My friends in America have again sent over some fabric with the instruction that I have the pattern,, just a shame my family couldn't remember its name so I'm no wiser as to what to do with it and will have to rely on suggestions from our group. Knitters, crocheters, and artists amongst us all help in various ways. A few of us are attending Festival of Quilts so hope to return inspired. Pat H



Craft Group

July was a disaster for craft and with the County Show looming we need to get organised. It is hard with the holidays to fit everything in so I think we need to organise 'Drop in' sessions. If you need help with any projects please call and we can arrange times to suit. One session we thought might be fun was to have a go at tropical jam making – an unusual entry for the show. Meanwhile we now have our new stand for the Co-operative and will need help with the additional props. So... lot's to do we just need a plan!
Gill

Garden Gang

Due to the extremes of weather we've had this year with highest temperatures since 1976 then cold nights and heavy downpours crops of vegetables are not what one would expect. No green beans at all yet, potatoes a good yield, tomatoes just starting to ripen. Time to be thinking ahead and start seeds off. It is also time to purchase and plant spring bulbs. Still time to take cuttings and always worth taking pelargonium cuttings to increase stock of any you particularly like. A timely reminder here to ALWAYS label seedlings as plants I've lovingly cared for thinking they were cauliflower proved to be turnips. 'Neeps and tatties' on the menu then. Hoping to return from Southport flower show full of knowledge and enthusiasm.
Pat H

Southport Flower Show

I've looked online and tickets bought in advance cost £19.00 as against £24.00 payable on the day. Train travel from Wigan Wallgate or Hindley but parking here very limited weekdays but better at weekend. As I don't drive I would either walk or bus to Wigan. There is a shuttle bus operating between the railway station and the showground costing £3.50 return. Those with a GMP travel pass only pay after Appley Bridge just under £5.00 last time I travelled but only after 9.30am weekdays, any time at weekends.

Plenty of outlets selling food, though I usually take snack, water, sandwiches and my flask. Lots more info available online. Please email me at phend@hotmail.co.uk or ring me on 07941 827871 if you would like me to get you an advance ticket which would be valid to attend on any of the days. Anyone wishing to drive car parks available at £6.00 per all day but I've no idea how quickly these get full. If you're unsure ring for a chat and I'll try to answer any queries.
Pat Henderson

Bowling Group

Our members continue to bowl every Tuesday morning weather permitting. The numbers fluctuate from three to eight, subject to holidays, illness and looking after grandchildren. We do bowl but we also do a lot of laughing and chatting, which reminds me, Glenda and I plucked up courage put our names down for the competition at Woodplumpton to find that it has been cancelled through lack of support. Never mind there's always next year. Mary

Trips and Outings

10th September. Friends of Haigh 1940's Event at the Stables Haigh Hall. We will be having a stall so watch this space.

Octagon trip to see Ruth Sue and Bob too on Wednesday 20th September at 2pm

Vue Cinema trip to see Victoria and Abdul on Tuesday 26th September.

Lancashire Federation County Craft show. Please let Helen know if you wish to attend this event. If there is sufficient interest we will organise a coach.

Art trip to Blackpool Zoo Monday 2nd October.

Indoor bowling Tuesday 17th October.

Chatsworth Christmas Market trip on Monday 4th December. Please pay Barbara by 14th August.

14th December matinee performance of 'Beautiful' The European trip to Palma next year has been booked and deposits paid. We will keep you informed with any further details

FAWNS (Friends of Aspull, Whelley and New Springs) This event has been cancelled due to problems with the council.. Hazel and Pat

NFWI News

RAFFLE: Tickets on sale August + Sept. meetings. Closing date 6th October'17.

'A PICTURE OF CHILDHOOD' NFWI invitation to WI members to visit National Gallery, London on Thursday 9th November'17.

LFWI News

DIARIES and CALENDARS for 2018. Place your order/s at August meeting. Closing date: Friday 25th August'17.

COMPETITION – LFWI CENTENARY LOGO 2020 This is an opportunity to be involved in designing a Centenary Logo. See details @ meetings. Closing date for designs 30th September'17.

CALLING ALL QUILTERS: 'The Lancashire Room' @ Denman College is undergoing refurbishment and quilters are requested to enter their designs for patchwork/quilted runner for double bed. More information at local meetings. Closing date for designs 30th September'17.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

CRAFT & PRODUCE SHOW: 'FOR THE LOVE OF A GOOD BOOK' Wednesday 27th September 10am – 9.00pm. and Thursday 28th September 10am to 5.30pm.

BETTY SANDERSON MEMORIAL TROPHY 'A Decorated Book Cover' Cl'date: Monday 14th Aug.'17.

PREVIEW EVENING AND DINNER Tuesday 26 September 18.00-18.45 for dinner 19.00. Closing date Thursday 7th September'17.

COUNTY SHOW TICKET APPLICATION Advance tickets £4 (No minimum number) Admission at the door £5. Cl.date: date Thur.7th Sept'17.

WORKSHOP: A basic guide to running an annual meeting To be held @ LFWI Offices on Saturday 2nd Sept. 10.00-12.30 Cost £5. Closing date: Thursday 24th August'17.

ULVERSTON MEDITATION CENTRE on Tuesday 19th Sept. Cost £23. Leaving Leyland 8.45am. Cl'date 31st August'17.

WALKING COAST & COUNTRYSIDE Saturday 7th October – 10.30am – 2.30pm. £2 per person Venue: Shore car park adjacent to Red Bank Farm LA5 8JR Closing date: Tuesday 26th September'17.

FOOD + FLOWERS – A lunch with Jonathan Moseley on Tuesday 10th October. 12 for 12.30 until 4.00pm. Cost £30 Venue: Chipping Village Hall, Chipping PR3 2QH Closing date Thursday 14th September

BEGINNERS' QUILTING & PATCHWORK @ Leyland Offices From 10.00am – 3.30pm. Cost £20 Friday 20th or Saturday 21st October. (Note corrected dates) Closing date: Thursday 21st September'17.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT – Stanley Park, Blackpool Tuesday 17th October'17. Cost £8 each. 10.30 to 12.30 (am walk) – 1.30 to 3.30 (pm walk) Closing date Thursday 7th September'17

WILLOW WEAVING @ LFWI Offices @ 10am to 3.30pm. Mon. 23 Oct or Sat 11th November – Christmas Angel Sun. 12 Nov. or Tue. 14th Nov. - Snowman and Wreath Tue. 24th Oct or Wed. 15th Nov. – Collection small items. Cost £20 + £20 cost of willow. Cl'Date 5th October'17.

FOOD ALLERGIES: Informaion + practical advice given. Venue: Bolton-le-Sands Village Hall on Wed. 8th Nov'17. Time: 2.00 – 4.00 Cost £8 incl. refreshments Closing date: Thursday 12th October'17.

CLUBBERCISE TASTER: @ Encore Dance School, Colne on Thursday 9th November. 6.45 – 8.00. Cost £5 Closing date Monday 30th October'17.

BIRTLE & JERICHO WI – Winter's Walk on Sat. 11th November Meet @ Pack Horse Pub Car Park 11-12.00 (approx) £2 each Closing date: Thursday 26th October'17.

LITERARY LUNCH WITH NICK OLDHAM - Tue 21 November'17 @ The Abbey Suite, Mytton Fold Hotel, Langho, Blackburn. 12.00 for 12.30pm. Cost £25. Closing date 23rd October'17

A TRADITIONAL LANCASHIRE DAY: Monday 27th November'17 Broughton Club Hall, Broughton, Preston 1.30-4.00pm Cost £8 Closing date Monday 6th November'17.

VISIT to MARKS & SPENCER COMPANY ARCHIVE - LEEDS Transport from Leyland 8.45 on Thursday 30th Nov'17. Cost £15. Closing date Wednesday 1st November'17.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS demonstration @ Leyland Office on Friday 1st or Saturday 2nd December'17. Time 10.00am – 3.30pm Fee £20 + £12 for materials. Closing date: Thursday 9th Nov'17.

CALENDAR 2019 – Photos. 'Public Parks & Gardens' Information @ meetings. Closing date: Monday 29 Jan'18.



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

August

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.