

Happy New Year everyone.

I hope everyone had a happy time over the festive season. I cannot believe yet another year has gone by, they are definitely flying by faster as I get older. Hmm, maybe the speed with which the year goes by has something to do with having joined the WI!

With the Christmas activities over it's that dull, cold time where it seems a long time before we will have good weather again. I can only hope that we have so much fun over the rest of winter at the WI and at all our clubs that we will be surprised by how quickly spring arrives.

I glanced out of my dining room window this morning and realised that the daffodil leaves are already breaking through the soil, or should I say mud, so we have got a hint of spring. In the meantime we have an interesting programme of events ahead of us as well as lots of outings and clubs starting up again. Hester

Last Meeting

The last official meeting of 2017 was our AGM in November. Gill Brown stepped down as President and Barbara Alker stepped down as Treasurer. Hester Smithies was voted as our new President for 2018. Gill Davies was voted on to the new committee



and took on the role of Treasurer. There was an excellent Fish & Chip Supper in aid of the RNLI and £2 from each meal was donated to the charity.

Christmas Party at The Brinsop

On Monday 11th December 2017 we held our Annual Christmas Party at 'The Brinsop'. Guests were welcomed and much 'catching up' and laughter was in evidence! Raffle tickets were purchased and Christmas Cards 'posted' in the boxes provided. On entering the dining room I think everyone was enchanted with the beautifully decorated tables and delicate white-muslin-covered chairs; the scene reminiscent of a traditional fairy-tale wedding – everything was so beautiful! The ambiance was palpable as the background seasonal music filled the room. Dinner was served. The menu was a little different from the normal Christmas Fayre. One choice from the starter course was 'Butternut Squash, Parsnip and Ginger Soup' and one selection from the main course was 'Oven Roasted Salmon Fillet with Vermouth and Dill' plus trimmings - How upmarket is this? The dessert courses were



quite ordinary in comparison, two of which were Christmas pudding and Sticky Toffee Pudding – delicious!! Tea and Coffee was served. A total of £130.50 was raised from all present for Wigan & Leigh Hospice, the charity which Aspull & Haigh WI are proud to support. Prizes were given to the winners with the most points from the monthly competition. The raffle was drawn and the Christmas Cards distributed. The evening ended with the Singing Group entertaining everyone with favourite Christmas songs. Hester Smithies, President drew the evening to a close by wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas! Helen

Next Meeting

Next Meeting Monday 12th February, 'Clarks Shoes'. A talk by Susan Nolan giving some insight into the history of shoes with particular reference to Clarks. There will also be vouchers available.

Competition; 'Decorate a Shoe'. Let your imagination run riot; either decorate a shoe to wear, or as an art piece, or even as a plant container. Wow us with your originality.

Visit to Chatsworth



In December, we visited Chatsworth House for their Annual Christmas Market. The house this year had a Dickens theme and didn't disappoint. Every room was festooned with a fantastic display of lights, decorations and Christmas Trees and as we moved from room to room we were met by characters from the books. Miss Havisham met us in the dining room, in her wedding gown, with a ghostly wedding breakfast display, then we came across Fagin in his lair, trying to pick a pocket or two. Many of the Dickens books were depicted from Great Expectations to Christmas Carol, all adding to the Christmas spirit.



The Christmas Market in the grounds provided further entertainment as we sampled the Mulled Wine and had a bit to eat. Everyone had the opportunity to partake of some pre-Christmas shopping. The consensus was that this was a great day out, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



Clayton Singers Carol Concert

Gill Brown and I went to the annual carol concert and thoroughly enjoyed it. The concert consisted of a selection of traditional carols and songs, some we knew and some we were unfamiliar with. The singing was interspersed with readings and stories, some of which were humorously delivered by members of the choir. We had a lovely evening and hope to go again next year. Sue Fernside

Lunch Group

There was no luncheon meeting in December as everyone was really busy. The committee took the opportunity to organise a meal to relax and enjoy fulfilling all their tasks over the year. An excellent meal was enjoyed at Rigaletto's at Robin Park where conversations ranged over reminiscing all the trips, activities and enterprises completed in 2017 and suggestions for future enjoyment. Lots to look forward to in 2018 – the committee have lots of ideas and enthusiasm for the future.

Theatre Group

WLT: The Hound of the Baskerville's

This spine chilling story by Arthur Conan Doyle was given a new twist and transposed into a comedy, very competently presented by only 3 actors. Paul Leffler who had 7 roles, Niall Wilkinson with 6 roles and Neil Brogan with 2 roles. This produced a hilarious romp through Grimpen Moor on Dartmoor with the eerie howling of the Hound terrifying all who heard it and Baskerville Hall where Sir Henry is the heir to a vast fortune which comes with the legacy of a curse of death by the beast that roams the moor. Holmes and Watson arrive at the Hall and start to suspect almost everyone who appears such as the servants, the butterfly collector, an escaped convict and ladies in distress.

The author would have found it hard to recognize his creation of horror in this uproarious interpretation enacted by these three very able actors. The costume changes must have been a nightmare for them!! Marie.

A Christmas Carol, Octagon Theatre, Bolton

Six ladies travelled to the Octagon Theatre to watch their production of A Christmas Carol. The show was a perfect start to the festive season. As is usual at the Octagon, the set was minimal with the central platform being transformed from Scrooge's bed to the Cratchit dining table.

The play broadly followed the original story and Scrooge was brilliantly played by Marc Small. As expected, there was a great deal of 'bah humbug' and his superb interpretation of the character brought much hilarity to the show.

The small cast played a variety of roles and well demonstrated their expertise in acting, playing musical instruments and singing. A company of young children were impressive as the chorus taking a number of parts.

The show was thoroughly enjoyable and we all left the theatre smiling. Sue Fernside

Beautiful : the Carole King Story.

Palace Theatre, Manchester, December 14th 2017

As ladies of a certain age I'm sure there won't be many among us who don't remember the iconic songs of Carole King! She wrote her first song, 'Will you still love me tomorrow' at the age of 17 and followed it with the memorable numbers listed below:

You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman, Take Good Care of my Baby, You've Got a Friend, So Far Away, It Might As Well Rain Until September, Up on the Roof, and Locomotion. This show really took us down memory lane

We all had a fantastic day, a lovely Italian lunch, a fantastic theatre experience, an after show drink at the old Refuge Assurance buildings, now the Palace Hoteland yes Carole King..... the very fact a musical has been made about your life, the applause, after the show, the standing ovation and the enjoyment and delight of the ladies of Aspull and Haigh WI ensures that we will very much "still love you tomorrow". Ruth Blakeman

Cinema Group

Murder on the Orient Express was our cinema trip for November and provoked a range of reviews from excellent to bizarre. Certainly Poirot's moustache and the scene where he walked across the top of the train on the bridge stretched the imagination but the acting was excellent. A coffee at Starbucks provided a great end to an interesting evening. Hazelxx

Singing for Fun

We all enjoyed singing at the WI party at the Brinsop on Monday 11th and then finished the year on a high with a party at Marie's on Wednesday 13th December. Drinks were flowing and with plenty of chatter and great food we had an excellent evening. Our singing has really improved in the last twelve months and with lots of fun and laughter we are looking forward to a great 2018. Hazelxx

Art Group

Our last meeting where we did any art was at the end of November, that feels so long ago, but we were interrupted by the trip to Chatsworth for our first December meeting and then we shared a meeting with the Knitting Together group and had a Jacob's lunch party.

For our last proper meeting we moved to our new venue at the Presbytery at Our Lady's. At last we had plenty of room. We were doing winter landscapes using a new material – oil pastels. Imagine everyone's shock when pots of baby oil were handed around. We used the baby oil to shade and blend the oil pastels together. Great fun was had with this technique. The results were interesting and at least one member took her painting further over the following weeks and brought a finished painting to the

Christmas party which we were all amazed at it looked so beautiful.
We are all looking forward to starting classes again in the near future.

Art Knits Together

On Tuesday 12th December the Art group and the Knitting Together group joined forces and created a scrumptious Christmas buffet. This was a lovely "Pick and Mix" as we all brought something for the buffet and we didn't know what others were bringing but between us we produced a fine festive feast! Everyone expressed how they had enjoyed this pre-Christmas social gathering and how nice it was to merge the two groups. Knit Together will recommence on Tuesday 9th January, 2.00pm and Art Group on Monday 15th January 10.00am, both are held at Our Lady's RC church meeting room and all are welcome so come along and have a go!

WI Christmas Tenpin Bowling



What an amazing start our WI festivities. Instead of ladies who lunched, we were ladies who ate drank and had a thoroughly fab time. We even managed to get some bowling in, which made our party even more enjoyable. Think I should also mention that when we first arrived at AMF Bowls we were allocated the executive suite with comfy seats, underneath a canopy of drapes, red party hats that lit up at the press of a button and twinkled all the way through our bowling session. During the afternoon we were served with liquid refreshments, including soft drinks, wine and beers followed by party nibbles with dips and fries. To add to our bowling party experience staff were very attentive not only making sure we had enough to eat but encouraging our group, whist bowling, to be competitive, eg :- by promising that ladies whose bowling skills had improved during the afternoon would be presented with certificates and a winners cup presented to the person with the highest score achieved during the session. Good company, a great Christmas Party atmosphere. Look forward to doing it all again next Christmas. Joyce Dalgliesh

Craft Group



Our Christmas craft meeting was somewhat different to other interest groups in that everyone had to work! With my son's wedding two days later I was grateful to the gang arriving and getting to work creating 10 table centres for the reception; a simple task for our gifted ladies. A variety of green foliage, berries and baubles – the task was soon completed. Plenty of mulled wine, sausage rolls, mince



pies and Christmas music kept us in the party mood, with time to relax afterwards to admire our handiwork. Thanks to everyone for their help, it turned a task into a fun morning.

The wedding went well and the reception room looked really festive with every table resplendent with a table centre.
Gill

Trips and Outings

Tuesday 26th January we are bowling at the AMF Wigan at 1.30pm

Saturday 27th January at 2.00pm we are going to see Jane Eyre at the Octagon We are meeting for lunch at the Octagon cafe at 12.15pm

Saturday 24th February we are going to see Hamlet at the Octagon.

Wednesday 7th March there is a trip to WLT to see An Audience with Murder at 7.30pm.

Monday April 23rd Palma trip.

Thursday May 17th we are going to see the Terracotta Army at the World Museum in Liverpool.. Hazel and Pat

NFWI Dates for your diary

UPCOMING EVENTS @ Denman – See leaflet – 'Faulty Towers Dining Experience – and more...
COTSWOLD DISTILLERY: Gin/WhiskyTalk-Tour-Taste Friday 9th February'18. Info: November meeting
DIANE ATKINSON will be giving informative talk @ Denman on 'The remarkable Lives of Suffragettes' Friday 16th February 2018. Info. at meetings.
ELIZABETH BELL PHOTO COMPETITION 'A Year in your WI Local WI's to put together a Photographic programme of events during the year. See information at meetings.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

FEDERATION FUN QUIZ
Aspull & Haigh will be participating in the quiz on Monday 29th January'18.

LFWI: Dates for your Diary
WORKSHOPS FOR WI TREASURERS will be held at Leyland Office Saturday 13th Jan '18 or Saturday 3rd Feb'18 Times for both days: 10.00 – 12.30. Cost £5 (Payment by WI) Closing date: Monday 18th December'17

WET FELTING with Beverly Elliot at:
Leyland Office on Friday 26th or Saturday 27th January'18 Times: 10.00 – 3.30. Fee £20 (plus £6 for materials) Closing date Monday 8th January'18.

WORKSHOPS FOR WI PRESIDENTS will be held at Leyland Office on Saturday 20th January'18 from 10.30-1.00 or Tuesday 6th February'18 from 6.30 - 9.00pm. Cost £5 (Payment by WI) Closing date: Thursday 11th January'18.

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

GAMES EVENING on Tuesday 20th Feb'18@ Barton Village Hall Preston. Time 7.30. Cost £5.50 incl. refreshments. Closing date: Thursday 1st February'18.

COOKERY & CRAFTS COMMITTEE are holding a UFO session @ Leyland Office on Wed. 21st or Sat 24th February'18 Times: 10.00 – 3.30. Cost £5 incl. tea/coffee & cakes! (UFO – Unfinished objects) See flyer for more information. Closing date: Thursday 1st February'18.

WATERCOLOURS FOR BEGINNERS with Tutor Val Templeman
Tuesday 27th February or Saturday 3 March'18. Cost £20 Venue: Leyland Office 10.00-3.30. Take packed lunch. Closing date: Monday 5th February'18.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

January 2018



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.



www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk