

Well what weather we are having. Just as we think we are getting closer to spring we are told that February is going to be cold. As I write this, Tuesday 6th, we have had light snow most of the day, though it didn't stick and soon melted away. Lots of interesting things this month, Super moon, blue moon and blood moon all rolled in to one moon, Pancake Day and Valentine's Day, the day after each other and Chinese New Year starts on 16th February. This year the Beacon meeting is hosted by Heaton WI at Over Hulton Conservative Club on Thursday 26th April. The cost is £8. Next year it will be our turn to hold the Beacon meeting, and I'm reliably informed that we offer a very high standard of entertainment! Happy February Birthday to Bev, Gill Entwistle, Clare, Nora and Tina.

Hester

Last Meeting

January meeting was focussed on the resolutions for 2018. After much discussion and debate we all voted and the results are as follows. Positive Body Image 7, Stop Female Genital Mutilation 7, Raising Awareness of Slavery in the UK 2, Mental Health Issues 18, Healthier Mouth 0. We welcomed Southport Lifeboatmen who gave an interesting insight into their charity and were pleased to receive a cheque for £100 raised at our October Fish & Chip Supper Meeting. Gill

Next Meeting

Monday 12th March, Easter Craft Workshop – something edible, functional and frivolous to celebrate the onset of Spring. Competition; No competition this month.

LFWI Quiz

We were brave, we knew it would be hard, but we did it for the sake of Aspull and Haigh WI. Team Aspullations - Sue Fearnside. Sheila Hines, Doreen Kay and Anne Couchman knew what we were in for, but we carried on regardless. We weren't the ones to panic.

Over the course of two hours we concentrated, we cudgelled our brains until they hurt and came up with answers to questions such as What is the capital of Djibouti?, what is a sea monkey? and how do you spell supercalifragilisticexpialidocious - yes, we got that one correct.

Yet again there were vociferous complaints about the esoteric nature of the questions, not from us, we knew what to expect. But on we ploughed quietly gaining correct answers.

We hope you are proud of us, selflessly spending a Monday evening upholding the honour of our WI. After all the rounds were totalled - and we realised we should have gone with our initial, gut reactions to some questions - we came joint third - only one point behind the second placed team and only four points behind the winners.

Quotes from our team members:

I'm not doing this again.

We held our own.

Einstein would have failed.

I feel like my education was wasted.

What ridiculous questions.

So we did our best - selflessly, we are going to let others take our place next year. It'll be hard, but we will cope.

Doreen

NB. I acted as quiz master at the Manchester venue and endorse all Doreen's comments. I think the only ladies to have a really good evening were Mary, Marie and Hester who helped as scorers. There have been a lot of negative comments passed onto federation again this year.

Gill

Lunch Club

Our first Lunch Club of the year proved very popular. I think everyone had missed having a good natter judging by the noise level. Truly Scumptious was the venue and with so many of us there it was quite a squeeze. They had laid the tables out in an L shape so not too conducive to everyone joining in one conversation, but no one got left out of the various conversations breaking out, We had a small honorary member of the WI in the



shape of Sue Fearnside's grandson William, who was so good and so sweet, but rather shy. Sue had bought a colouring book and coloured pens to entertain him with, however as a group of us looked on in envy it wasn't long before he had more than a few helping hands doing some colouring in, with a windmill picture proving very popular. Lots of us had breakfast menus items rather than off the lunch menu, I'm surprised they didn't run out of eggs! No one seemed to have room for cake afterwards. Other patrons came and went as we gossiped and laughed our way into mid-afternoon. I think that everyone agreed it had been lovely to get together again over lunch.

This month the lunch club is pancake lunch courtesy of Parbold WI. Details are as follows -

Tuesday 13th February - 10.30 - 1pm at Parbold WI Hall

Tea and coffee available

Bring and buy stall.

Last year it was £1 a pancake - money raised helps Parbold pay for the maintenance and upkeep of their hall.

Parbold are holding their annual Fun Quiz Night on Friday 23rd March at 7.30 at Parbold WI Hall to raise more funds for upkeep and maintenance of their hall.

Tickets are £9.00 which includes Pie, Peas and Pudding supper. Take your own drink.

You will need to book for this event. More details about booking on meeting night - Monday 12th February.

Theatre Group

Jane Eyre Octagon Theatre, Bolton, Sat 27th Jan 2018

"I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will."

After enjoying a pre-theatre lunch at the Octagon we were all looking forward to the production of Jane Eyre and wondering how Charlotte Bronte's much loved classic novel would be adapted for the stage.

We were not disappointed. The pared back direction, the ingenious set and the assured performance of Jessica Baglow as the strong and principled heroine took us right back into the familiar pages of the book.

The action took place within a large, cage like, metal infrastructure which worked on many different levels, both as a metaphor for confinement and to cleverly represent a prison.

As Jane is locked in the Red Room the cage becomes suffused with red light billowing up from below the floor. When the young Jane is sent to Lowood School the action takes place within its restrictive bars. When Mr Rochester's wife, the mad woman imprisoned in the attic, rampages on the metal structure in the auditorium, above our heads, the reverberating noise adds to the discord.

The versatile cast at the Octagon dipped in and out of various parts, some more successfully than others, but always with enthusiasm. The production stayed true to the original story and

whilst the play lacked the intensity of the book and the drama of the big screen, it was enticing, had its own charm and kept us all enthralled to the end.

Ruth Blakeman

Cinema Group

Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Meryl Streep as Katherine Graham, publisher of the Washington Post and Tom Hanks as the editor Ben Bradlee, this was a true story of the Vietnam war and the refusal of the White House to accept that the war could never be won.

The Pentagon Papers revealed the true situation and were stolen from the Secretary of State's office by Daniel Ellberg who had previously seen the true state of the situation when he was a reporter.

Some of the facts from the Papers were leaked to the New York Times who published and were then banned from any further publication. These papers then came into the hands of the Washington Post who then had to decide whether or not to risk publication. Katherine Graham, as publisher had the final say and she and the editor risked imprisonment if they published. After much soul searching and discussion among the many 'suits' and the lone woman she decided to publish and risk the consequences. The result was overwhelming. All the other papers published at the same time and the government had to accept that something had to be done. The loss of so many thousands of young lives has been the legacy of this truly horrendous, pointless conflict.

A very good film, brilliantly acted.

The Vietnam War timeline. 1.11.55 - 30.4.76.

Presidents in office; Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford.

Marie.

Singing for Fun

Our first meeting of the year and still some of our group are not yet recovered from the winter ailments which have plagued so many this year. However, though we were few, we started again with renewed enthusiasm and enjoyed singing some of our favourites - starting with 'Bring me Sunshine' which always brings a smile to our faces as we remember the antics of Morecambe and Wise.

We finished with our usual refreshments but this time we had cream cakes courtesy of Maureen!

Marie.

Art Group

A new year and a new technique. Brushes were banned for the first meeting of the year as palette knives became the tool of choice. Acrylic paints were splashed around on to canvas covered boards. A bit like buttering bread the paint was spread by various shaped knives. Snow scenes, trees, woodlands were favourite subjects, but oh dear how were the very wet painting to be taken home? Tinfoil envelopes folded over to keep everything safe so that at the next session we could continue with our work. Lots of tea and catching up after the Christmas season finished the session. On our second session we looked at our paintings before putting finishing touches to them, brushes were allowed for small details. Using palette knives certainly proved interesting, thick paint applied very freely, with very few details. The finished



results had lots of texture and everyone agreed it was a fun session to try. Some of us will probably use the technique again while others will breathe a sigh of relief as we try, over the next few sessions, to finish any unfinished work. Hopefully as the year continues we will be able to put on a small exhibition at one of our



monthly meetings. Thank you to Marie and Father Kevin for ensuring that our meeting room is lovely and warm for our painting sessions. Hester



Tenpin Bowling

We had a great time at ten pin bowling today. We finally decided to play without the barriers for our second game and we're surprised at the good results. Everyone improved their game and decided it was much more exciting. Our next game is on Tuesday 13th March so feel free to join us.

Hazel

Craft Group

A new year deserved a new craft. When we were at Chatsworth Christmas market we saw some unusual fabric necklaces which cost a fortune for what they were. Needless to say, with a little judicious observation I was able to work out how they were made! The results were very satisfying and as they were simple to make it left us plenty of opportunity to chat and of course drink and eat cake.



For our next project I would like to try something a little different. I have sorted a lot of my fabric stash and have a lot of suiting and heavier weight fabric, ideal for skirts, cushions, stoles, bags, draught excluders etc. The complexity of the project could be geared to skill, a simple stole or wrap could require no sewing at all whereas a skirt could stretch your ability to the full. I am happy to see the fabric put to good use. So come along on Thursday morning and see if you can be tempted to try something different.
Gill

Knitting Together



Last year there were knitted spiders for Halloween and tinsel Christmas trees proved very popular in the run-up to Christmas.



Texting gloves/wrist warmers are continuing to be popular. Items to be donated to charity are on the go, such as the octopus for preemie and hats and gloves for the fishermen for the next County Show. Knitted

monkeys are also being started now for the County Show. There are always new ideas for on-going knitting and crochet projects. The afternoon is very relaxed and sociable so come along, all are welcome. The room is now heated prior to our arrival so it is nice and warm for us – no more trying to knit with gloves on!

Sessions are fortnightly on Tuesdays and the next are on 20th February and 6th March, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at Our Lady's church meeting room, Haigh Road, Aspull.
Gill Davies

Trips and Outings

13th February. Lunch club at Parbold WI Hall for pancakes. Time and meeting arrangements abc.

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.

23rd March Quiz Night at Parbold WI Hall. 7.30pm cost £9 to include pie and peas supper. BYOD.

Monday April 23rd Palma trip.

26th April Beacon meeting hosted by Heaton at Over Hulton Conservative Club. 7.30pm.

Wed 2nd May at Elizabeth Gaskell House in Manchester. It's £19 for entry to the house ready cake and talks. If you are interested please bring a cheque to the next meeting and we will book the tickets.
We will travel by train and bus or get a taxi from the station.

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

Hazel and Pat

NFWI:

Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff on Wednesday 6th June '18.
Hester Smithies – President to attend as Link Delegate.

LFWI:

HOTPOT – Monthly WI magazine. Cost £4.50 per year.
Names+ monies to Mary Hart at February/March meetings.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 7th March 2018
@ THE SOUTHPORT THEATRE, SOUTHPORT, PR9 0DZ
10.45 – 3.30 (Doors open 9.30) Tickets £15 each. Lunch available £8 – to book in advance. Closing date 22 Feb. '18

LFWI Future date for diary:

BETTY SANDERSON MEMORIAL TROPHY - 'TRIBAL MASK' re County Show. Closing date entries 13th August '18

Dates for your diary from LFWI

WORKSHOPS FOR WISECRETARIES @ Leyland Office
Sat. 17th March or Sat. 24th March 10.00 to 12.30. Local WI's to fund cost - £5. Closing date: Monday 12th March '18

DANCE-TASTER DAY on 11th April @ Barton Village Hall, Preston
10.00-3.00. Cost £12 Tea/Coffee. Cl.date: Wed'14th March'18.

COUNTY SHOW: SHOW TIPS 'Good beginnings - Happy endings'
Saturday 7th April – Croston House, Leyland 10.00 – 12 00noon
Thur.12th April–Stand Church Hall, Church Ln. W'field M/C 1-3pm
Monday 16th April – St.John's Church Hall, Pilling, 1.00-3.00
Saturday 28th April – Croston House, Leyland 10.00 – 12.00..
Closing date: Wednesday 21st March 2018.

A DAY TRIP TO CHESTER on Wednesday 18th April 2018.
Cost £13. Leaving Leyland 9.30 and return 4.30
Closing date: Thursday 22nd March 2018.

IMPROVE YOUR KNITTING SKILLS: Lynda Doyle at Leyland Office
Friday 20th April (Intermediate) or Saturday 21st April (Beginners)
Time: 10.00 – 3.30. Cost £20. Closing date: Tuesday 3rd April '18.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE FOR UPPER VOICES: @ Broughton Club
Whittingham Lane, Broughton, Preston PR3 5DA on 23rd April '18.
Time: 10.00 for 10.30. Cost 12.50 per member.
Invitations to join in a day of choral music-making for which only requirement is enthusiasm!

A.C.W.W. 'LADIES WHO LUNCH' on Thursday 26th April 2018
@ Farrington Lodge Hotel, Stanisfield Lane, Farrington, Preston PR26 4QR. Come and enjoy a delicious two course lunch £22.50
Time: 12.00 for 12.30. Closing date: Thursday 5 April '18.

DECOUPAGE @ Leyland Offices with Amanda Greenhall on Friday 11th May or Saturday 12th May '18. 10.00 – 3.30.
Fee: £20 plus £8 payable to tutor for materials used.
Closing date: Monday 9th April 2018.

PANCAKES @ PARBOLD WI HALL – Tuesday 13th February '18
Names urgently needed at February meeting.

BEACON GROUP MEETING – to be hosted by Heaton WI @ O'Hulton Conservative Club, St.Helen's Rd. Bolton BL5 1AA on Thursday 26th April '18 - 7.30 – 10.30.
Aspull & Haigh WI have been allocated 22 tickets - £8 each.
Poster and names-list will be on display at February meeting.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

February 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