

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb – well this year's start has really lived up to the old saying, though I think the saying was referring to winds, not snow and ice stirred up by gales. I hope you all managed to stay warm and safe through our recent wild weather. Some things had to be cancelled due to the weather but in this area we were rather lucky in how quickly the weather cleared again.

Signs of spring are now appearing, with Wigan Borough competing in Britain in Bloom each year we have lovely swathes of spring bulb planting and planters of winter pansies and primroses. In the WI we have all sorts of things to look forward to, how about welcoming spring by making fabric and knitted flowers to make a spring wreath like the one on the front of this month's WI Life. There are also some very nice cake recipes for Easter in the magazine. By the time you are reading this we will be having our Easter Craft meeting – I hope you all enjoy what you make ready for a fun filled Easter and don't forget to go Pace Egging – for those of you unsure what this entails its quite a simple tradition that has you rolling a hard boiled, decorated egg down the steepest hill you can find. The winner is the person who's egg goes furthest undamaged.

Hester

Last Meeting



Unfortunately Clarks Shoes had to cancel their speaker. Pam willingly stepped into the breach and gave us a fascinating talk about her hobby 'Doll making'. We heard how she started whilst convalescing after an operation, and what is involved in producing the finished article whether it be porcelain or fabric. The skills required and the attention to detail was amazing. It's no wonder that the 'gestation' period is not dissimilar to a baby only Pam's dolls remain perfect with no teething problems or tantrums!

She bought along some of her protégés for us to admire, many of whom had won international competitions and a few that featured in our own WI co-operative displays.

We have some incredibly skilled members and it was interesting to have the opportunity to focus on one of them.

Gill

Competition Results

'Decorate a Shoe'
1st Gill Brown
2nd Glenda Fletcher
3rd Pam Melling

Next Meeting

Monday 9th April, 'Hats Around the World' a talk by Pat Ashcroft.

Competition; an 'Easter Bonnet.' Upcycle an old hat or knit, crochet or craft a hat fit to celebrate spring.

ACWW

At the Spring Council meeting on Wednesday it was suggested that we collect used postage stamps to raise funds for ACWW as well as the "pennies for friendship" tin. I can't be at Monday's meeting, so please save any stamps or coins until April.

Thank you Barbara Alker

Lunch Club

Lunch was a little different this month as we supported Parbold WI by attending their Pancake Day. As always the pancakes were delicious with plenty of choices of toppings; but most of us opted for the traditional lemon juice and sugar. The only problem was just how many can you eat without appearing greedy Remember it was in lieu of lunch. Gill

March Lunch club will meet at San Marco Blackrod (just off the A6) on Thursday 22nd March meeting at 12.30pm. If you require a lift please tell us at the meeting.

Theatre Group

Review:

HAMLET by William Shakespeare, Bolton Octagon Theatre

A quartet of ladies braved the bitter wind to see Hamlet at the Octagon Theatre and we were not disappointed. We were not quite sure what to expect as the play was advertised as having a 'modern twist'. The 'twist' was that all the actors wore modern clothing, ie 1970/80s. I recognised this by the wide lapels on the suits and the Levi jeans – yes, I had some! The dialogue remained unchanged and the modern clothing did not detract from the excellent performances from all concerned. In fact, the modern costume soon became irrelevant as the play progressed.

Hamlet is a tale of trust, loyalty and revenge. He had returned from studying abroad to find his home utterly changed and his place in the world uncertain. His father was dead, supposedly murdered, and his mother, Gertrude, had married his uncle, Claudius, his father's brother, who was now the king. Torn apart with grief and suspicion, Hamlet must decide on what to do.

The production was awe inspiring and after every

production, we always leave the theatre saying “How on earth do they remember all those lines?”

Sue Fernside

WLT

Audience with Murder

Written by: Roger Leach and Colin Wakefield
Directed by: Peter Hall

This was an intriguing and witty thriller, full of unexpected twists. A play about people rehearsing a play, about people rehearsing a play, about people rehearsing a play it's been called 'A Russian doll of a play', as layer after layer, it moved from a seemingly innocuous domestic play reading, through a murder mystery in the classic style, to a final most unexpected climax. A very enjoyable play and described by many members afterwards as “a play, within a play, within a play”.

Gill Davies

Cinema Group

Finding Your Feet

A feel good film directed by Richard Loncraine and a wonderful cast of characters, the story is about two totally different sisters forced to live under the same roof.

We meet Lady Sandra Abbot (Imelda Staunton) a thorough snob, on top of the world as she celebrates her husband's long career in the police and is now planning retirement in their enormous home. Alas she discovers that her husband (John Sessions) has been having an affair with her best friend and she leaves him to go to live with her sister Bif (Celia Imrie) a pot smoking hippy, in her council house. Sandra with her airs and graces does not fit in with Bif's friends and finds life difficult.

Very gradually Sandra starts to ease up and joins her sister at the dance club where she begins to realize that she loves to dance. She slowly begins to accept the new people in her life, Charlie (Timothy Spall) and Jackie (Joanna Lumley). Charlie's wife is in the latter stages of Alzheimer's and is in a nursing home and Jackie is a rather imperious much married character.

The dance Club starts to be a success and travels to Rome to perform in a concert and Sandra and Charlie begin to fall in love.

This film has a lot of sadness in it as well as a lot of joy and though it may not be a very original story it has much to recommend it and a brilliant cast.

Marie M.

Singing for Fun

This month we have only managed to have one session, bad weather having caused us to cancel last week's and due to other commitments the next one will not be until the 21st of March. However a suggestion has been made that perhaps we should try to theme our sessions, for instance to have an evening singing songs from the shows or Country and Western evenings (but no line dancing!) Or maybe to

concentrate on one particular artist or group (dare we try Abba?). Something interesting to think about. If anyone likes this idea just come along and give it a go! Marie.

Art Group



The art group has had a very wobbly start to the new year with a number of the meetings being cancelled. I do apologise to all members about that. The one meeting we have managed this month proved one thing though, just how much the members are improving their abilities. As the old saying goes – Practice makes perfect. Just the fact of regularly practicing has really shown its benefits to everyone. At our meeting we continued to explore palette knife painting and it is wonderful to see the work at the end of the session. Ohhs and Ahhs, let me see, oh that is gorgeous. Best of all is seeing two paintings both done from the same source but with completely different interpretations. As usual we had our PVC tablecloth on the table, but somehow we always end up on hands and knees cleaning spots of paint off the floor and at least one table – how does it get there! We have become quite expert at getting it off carpet and wood, wish we could clean ourselves up as easily. If you plan to come along an apron is definitely a good idea.

Hester



Happy Birthday to
Dorren Kay and Betty Miller
who have birthdays this month.

Craft Group



We have been very practical this month with a bit of proper sewing. Each lady selected a piece of wool fabric; some of it the finest British Worsted and made a stole, poncho, wrap or waistcoat. All very simple designs but useful with the inclement weather we have endured. Half term week we had a young apprentice (Hazel's granddaughter) who made a tote bag – a future project.

Gill

Knitting Together

Sessions are fortnightly on Tuesdays and the next are on 20th March and 3rd April, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at Our Lady's church meeting room, Haigh Road, Aspall.

This is an opportunity to knit and chat over a cuppa, the afternoon is very relaxed and sociable so come along, bring your own project, all are welcome.

Gill Davies

Trips and Outings

Tuesday 13th March Ten Pin Bowling at AMF Wigan at 1.30pm. Meet in the foyer at 12.45pm

Thursday 15th March we are going to the Botanist for lunch and then the Lowry theatre to see Mathew Bourne's Cinderella at 2.00pm

Saturday 7th April is our coach trip to see the Terracotta army at the World Museum in Liverpool. We are meeting at St Elizabeths at 8.30am and travelling by cars to Horwich to pick up the coach at 9.15am. There is free parking behind Barclays Bank.

Wednesday 18th April WLT trip to see Much Ado About Nothing.

Monday 23rd April is our five day trip to Palma, Majorca.

Wednesday 2nd May we are travelling by train to see Elizabeth Gaskell House in Manchester. We are going to visit the Whitworth Art Gallery in the morning and then have lunch there before going to see the house at 1.00pm. The afternoon tea event is from 2.00 till 4.00pm.

Wednesday 30th May Is the performance of Bazaar and Rummage at WLT at 7.30pm.

Saturday 9th June is our last Octagon trip this season and we will see Summer Holiday. The performance is at the bus station and then an interactive bus journey to the Albert Hall for the rest of the performance The Octagon is closed for refurbishment from the end of May 2018 to Autumn 2019 and so performances will be held at other venues.

Friday 6th July is our three day trip to London to see the RHS Garden show at Hampton Court and also Kew Palace and Gardens.

Tuesday 31st July is our annual garden trip and this year we are going on a one day coach trip to Trentham Gardens. These include award winning Italian Gardens, a garden centre, a shopping village with timber lodges housing shops, cafes and restaurants, a Monkey forest and a lake designed by Capability Brown. The cost is £25 if you would like to join us. Hazel and Pat

NFWI News

103 ANNUAL MEETING on Wednesday 6th June '18 @ Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff. Hester to attend.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

Lancashire Federation Residential Designer Day Sunday 17th + Monday 18th June '18. £192

Auditions to be held @ Leyland Office Friday 23rd March + Friday April 6th April. Members - See Helen for more information.

WORKSHOP FOR WI SECRETARIES @ Leyland Office Sat. 17th March or Sat. 24th March 10.00 – 12.30. Local WI's fund member/s - £5. Closing date: Monday 12th March '18.

DANCE-TASTER DAY @ Barton Village Hall, Preston. Time: 10.00 – 3.00. Cost £12 Tea/coffee provided Closing date: Wednesday 14th March '18.

COUNTY SHOW TIPS: 'Good beginnings-Happy endings' Sat. 7th April - Leyland 10.00-12.00. Thur. 12th April - Stand Church Hall, Whitefield, 1-3pm Mon. 16th April – St. John's Church Hall, Pilling 1-3pm Sat. 28th April – Croston House, Leyland 10.00-12.00 Closing date: Wednesday 21st March '18.

DAY TRIP TO CHESTER: Wed. 18th April '18. Cost £13 Leaving Leyland 9.30–return 4.30. Cl'dt: Thur. 22 Mar '18.

IMPROVE YOUR KNITTING SKILLS: Venue: Leyland Office. Tutor Lynda Doyle. Fri 20th April (Intermediate) - Sat. 21st April (Beginners) Time: 10.00-3.30. Cost £20. Closing date: Tue 3rd April '18

A.C.W.W. 'Ladies who lunch' @ Farrington Lodge Hotel. Come and enjoy a delicious 2 x course lunch £22.50 Time: 12.00 for 12.30. Closing date Thursday 5th April '18.

DECOUPAGE @ Leyland Office with Amanda Greenhall on Friday 11th May or Sat. 12th May '18. 10.00 – 3.00. Cost £20 + £8 payable to tutor for materials used. Closing date: Monday 9th April '18.

BEGINNERS DRESSMAKING at Leyland Office 10.00-03.00 @ Leyland Office Mon. 11th June or Sat. 16th June '18. £20 Closing date: Monday 14th May '18.

GARDEN DEMONSTRATION – Brindle Community Hall on Thursday 14th June '18 @ 10.30-3.30. Cost £30. Closing Date: Thursday 17th May '18.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT: Wed. 20th June '18 6.30 – 9.00 @ Wine Press, Littleborough. Closing date: Thur. 24th May '18.

LOCAL WIEVENT: BEACON GROUP MEETING – THURSDAY 26TH APRIL '18. TO BE HOSTED BY HEATON WI @ O'HULTON CONSV. CLUB. TICKETS £8.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

March 2018



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.