

Easter has been, though the local children are still celebrating the holidays. Let's hope they get a few days of sunshine! For those of you who get the Labour Councillors News Letter for Aspull, New Springs and Whelley Ward you may have seen read or chuckled at the audacity of their claiming how, "with help from the WI, no mention of which WI, and a Coop fund" (note that this is their spelling of Co-op) they had installed a defibrillator for the welfare of their constituents. A letter of protest has been sent along with a request for an apology to Mr Conway, the councillor. Apart from this little item of note by now a number of members will have become well and truly cultured having been to see the Chinese Warriors, no doubt we will be able to read about the trip in the next newsletter. I hope Liverpool counted the number of warriors they had after our ladies had been, some of them look rather nice looking! And no, a Liver bird is too big as a garden ornament. Let us all hope for warm weather between now and our next meeting so that we can get out and enjoy those all too quickly gone spring flowers.

Hester

Last Meeting



Last month's meeting was our annual craft event. Easter crafts were the order of the day and saw us making Easter Baskets with added Easter Bunny. The group enjoyed making the paper baskets which consisted of weaving



paper to make a basket base. Although a little fiddly, everyone managed to follow instructions and create their basket. The fun started when it came to making Cadburys Creme Egg resemble an Easter Bunny. With icing bags at the ready, we tried our best to create a cute bunny. Some were more cute than others!

All in all, an enjoyable evening with plenty of giggles
Pat Dent

No Competition this month

Next Meeting

Monday 14th May, 'Tax, Care and Toy Boys' a talk by Clarissa Malpas on how to wisely protect your money.

Competition: Write a proverb or saying about money.

Funeral of Marian Connolly

The funeral of Marian Connolly, a former member of Aspull and Haigh WI, who some of you will remember, was held on 20th March. The service was taken by our own Rev Carol Close. Avril Prescott, who knew Marian, and I attended as did the daughter and her husband of another former member. The funeral was well attended as Marian had many hobbies and interests. Her daughter was very pleased that WI members had gone along to the service to honour her mother. Marian supported the following causes if anyone wishes to send a donation in her memory – The Hardy Plant Society, The RSPB, the Salvation Army or the RNLI.

Hester

Spring Council Meeting

The Annual Spring Council Meeting of the Lancashire Federation WI was held at Southport Floral Hall on the 7th March. As there were only three of us attending we all travelled in one car. We arrived, slightly late and found some seats. The business of the meeting got underway. Votes were cast. As lunch time drew nearer the first speaker was introduced to the audience. Beth Tweddle, the first British female gymnast to win a medal at European, World and Olympic level. She was so very interesting, a quick introduction of film clips showing her competing, then how she had become interested in gymnastics and her battle to be the best she could be and the pressure of media interest once she began to win on the international scene. She spoke of her fight against injury and how, relatively, she was the old woman of competition toward the end of her career. Following this we had lunch. As we looked around the sales hall and slowly made our way back to the hall we had to call in to the ladies. As I came in a group were gathered around a cubicle, a wonky lock..... Barbara to the rescue! She steps forward scissors in hand, manipulated the lock and, hey presto, emergency over, just as security arrived. The second half of the meeting commenced with awards being given out for long serving members, the raffle drawn and finally the second speaker, Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut. She talked about the size of the Russian space station and explained the toilet arrangements, which is something she is always asked about, the view of stars without Earth's atmosphere and sleeping arrangements – a hood on your sleeping bag being essential to stop you slipping out of your 'bed' whilst you sleep. Having listened to Beth Tweedle I thought her talk could not be beaten but Helen proved enthralling from applying to become an astronaut to

the experience of space. A thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Hester

Lunch Club



We met this month at San Marco for lunch. A few members had to cancel at the last moment but that didn't stop the rest of us having a very enjoyable meal. The staff are very friendly and the atmosphere relaxed; as for the food it was delicious. We had a very leisurely meal with plenty of chatting. Afterwards we were invited to view the room where we are holding our Christmas meal, they were in the process of setting the room for a wedding event. I am sure it will be perfect for us; warm, clean, plenty of space and our own bar.

The next lunch will be held at Aroma, Wigan Road, Whelley on Friday 20th April. Meeting at 12.30pm. This is a relatively new Café bar and very convenient for many of our members. Jo and I had lunch there recently and found it very affordable and the food was freshly cooked and appetising.

Gill

Parbold Fun Quiz

Ann, Gill and I attended Parbold WI Hall on Friday 23rd March '18. We were warmly welcomed on arrival and given a table for four – fortunately we were joined by a man and his wife to make us a team of five. I find that Parbold quizzes are always consistent; questions are equally mixed and fair. As always we enjoyed a hotpot supper and cheesecake – to help the brain function (I think) and although we came lower in the scale of things than we had hoped for – the difference between the overall winners and the remainder of the members wasn't huge - after all 'it's not the winning.....' is it? A good time was had by all!

Helen

Theatre Group

Review: Cinderella

On the 15th March a group of us went to The Lowry to see Matthew Bourne's Ballet, Cinderella. We were treated to a dramatic performance of dance and music, set in War torn London. The ballet took the



form of the classic fairytale, with a modern twist, all with a backdrop of the blitz and the mayhem of the time. Fabulous sets added to the atmosphere as our heroine

danced her way from a life of drudgery to the ball. Matthew Bourne's quirky Fairy Godfather added an extra twist to the tale. A thoroughly enjoyable treat for the senses and enjoyed by all
Pat Dent

Bowling for Fun



On Tuesday 13th March our final Ten Pin Bowling session of the season was a roaring success. Our ladies are becoming more competitive and two of our group managed to

score over 100 in a game, which is a huge improvement over the season. We now move into the Crown Green bowling season at Aspull and Mary will advise us on the start date in May. Our next indoor bowling session will be in October at the end of the outdoor season.



The first meeting of Crown Green Bowling is scheduled to commence Tuesday 8th May at 10am at the greens by the sports fields. Please contact Mary for further information.

Singing for Fun

We meet every other Wednesday, usually, at my house in Aspull at about 7 until 10. Lots of singing laughing and chatting. The next session will be on May 9th because of holidays and the Majorcan expedition.

Marie

Art Group

What a shock I got when I went to save this write up – there in the art club write up folder was the write up of the first meeting we held – typed on 7th April last year. I cannot believe it is now over a year that we have been meeting! Well here is what I had written before I

realised we had missed our first anniversary - Well, what can I say, the weather is improving and we all looked out at the surroundings and saw green hills and sunshine – actual sunshine, maybe soon the art club will be able to go outdoors to do some sketching. We kept promising ourselves an outdoor drawing session last year but never managed it. In the library we were downstairs in the children's section so it was artificial light and no windows, in Our Ladies we have a bigger room and windows. Around the sides and front of the church are lots of flower beds so maybe



some of our group will be inspired to draw and paint the flowers as well as the views of hills at the back. At the moment though we will stay wrapped up and warm, with our cups, well mugs, of tea and coffee and, not forgetting, our biscuits. Oh and yes our painting, yes we do still spend more time painting than gossiping and drinking our preferred brews. Hopefully, at a meeting soon, we will put on a display of paintings. Members are now beginning to find their preferred materials, whether it is pastels, watercolours or acrylics as we have tried our hands at all of these now. Hester.

Craft Group

Craft Group
At this week's craft session on Thursday we are going to experiment with fusing/bonding old plastic carrier



bags to create new fun bags. The effects can be quite stunning. Please bring a selection of ordinary plastic bags with you – not the bags for life, preferably brightly coloured as it would be good to create something bright for the summer. These are layered together and bonded using an iron to make a sheet of plastic to make into a very useful lightweight bag. The picture of one I made earlier using a black bin bag and a builders dust sheet. Gill

Knitting Together

Sessions are fortnightly on Tuesdays and the next two are on 17th April and 1st May, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at Our Lady's church meeting room, Haigh Road, Aspull. If you are new to knitting, wish to start and need some help, there are experienced knitters willing to give a helping hand. The afternoon is very relaxed and sociable, bring your own knitting or crochet and have a chat over a cuppa, it's a great way to spend an afternoon. Gill Davies

Trips and Outings

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. We can check if there are any more places if you would like to join us It's £229 per person for a double room. Includes Bed Breakfast and evening meals

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 Patxx

NFWI News

103rd ANNUAL MEETING to be held Wednesday 6th June'18

@ Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff. Hester to attend.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

BEGINNERS DRESSMAKING with Elaine Cuzner @ Leyland Office Monday 11th June or Saturday 16th June'18. From 10.00am – 3.30pm. Cost £20
Cl'date: 14th May'18

GARDEN DEMONSTRATION – Brindle Community Hall on Thursday 14th June'18 @ 10.30am - 3.30pm. Cost £15
Closing Date: Thursday 17th May'18.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT: Wed. 20th June'18 6.30pm – 9.00pm. (Cost not given) Venue: The Wine Press Littleborough.
Closing date: Thur. 24th May'18.

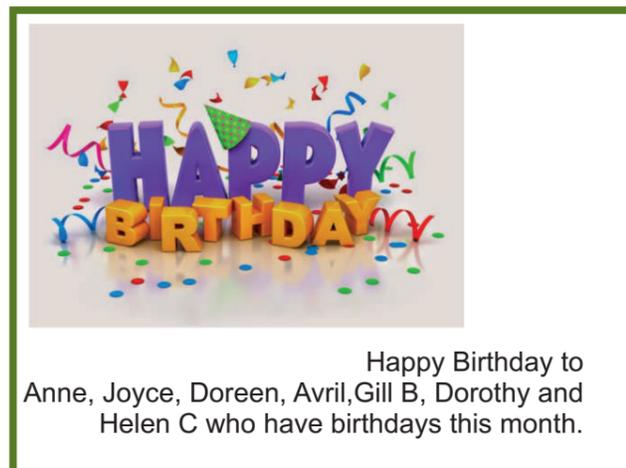
CUSHIONS + BUNTING CLASS will be held @ Leyland Office Friday 13th or Saturday 14th July 2018 - 10.00am – 3.30pm Cost £20.
Closing date: Thursday 14th June'18

POETRY APPRECIATION AND WRITING DAY will be held at Leyland Office on Friday 29th June or Saturday 30th June'18. Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm. Cost £20. Closing date 31st May'18

GRETNA GATEWAY OUTLET VILLAGE, SCOTLAND
Thursday 7th June'18. Leaving Leyland approx. 8.00am. Returning approx. 3.40pm Cost £15.
Closing date now -

LOCAL WIEVENT:

Members of Aspull + Haigh WI will be attending the annual BEACON GROUP MEETING – THURSDAY 26TH APRIL'18 which will be hosted by Heaton WI and will be held at Over Hulton Conservative Club. Tickets are still available at cost £8. Please contact Helen if you wish to attend.



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.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

April 2018



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