

November already, a year since I was voted in as president. The year has gone by so fast and now we are saying goodbye to some long serving committee members. We say a sad farewell from the committee to Doreen Hartley, Pam Melling and Gill Brown, however they will be around at meetings still and Gill will continue to run the craft group and Gill and Rob will be continuing to prepare and print our newsletters each month. Apart from it being our AGM November is the time for Remembrance Sunday, which is a special celebration this year marking 100 years since the end of the First World War. Many of you will have taken part in Remembrance services, Carol Close is in Ypres, and will have been at Ypres Cathedral for the service. She is touring a number of battle sites and cemeteries, taking with her 20 Remembrance Crosses, including one from Aspull and Haigh WI. By now the poppy wreath that our WI made poppies for will have been laid at the War Memorial at the Finger Post in Aspull. Again thank you to Gill Brown for putting the wreath together. To finish on a lighter note, November is our last official meeting of 2018, the Christmas party is coming up in December and a number of the WI groups will also be having their own Christmas celebrations. May I thank everyone for bearing with me during my first year as a President and may I wish you all the best for the coming year.

Hester

Thanks to everyone who made and donated poppies for the wreath. We managed to fit over 80 into a 16" circle. The result was a true representation of WI skills; knitted, crocheted, felt, hand sewn, singed, lace and Fimo were some



of the methods used. The final result was stunning.

Last Meeting

Last month's talk was given by Josie Morris. The talk



gave us an insight into the artisan world of chocolate making. Josie gave us background detail about coffee beans and where her chocolate was sourced from. She then took us through the process of tempering to the final product. We all had the opportunity to sample various chocolate elements and there was a selection of chocolates to purchase.

Pat Dent

Next Meeting

There is no meeting in December but we will have our Christmas meal at The Hawthorns (San Marco) on Monday 10th December 6.30pm for 7pm start. The evening will finish about 10pm. Please remember to bring your 'Secret Santa' gift costing no more than £5, wrapped with a gift tag stating who sent it – it's always nice to be able to say thank you.

Next Meeting Monday 14th January 2019. The short list of resolutions will be reviewed followed by a fun evening.

Competition Results for Year

- 1st Gill Brown
- 2nd Ann Dickinson
- 3rd Pam Melling
- 4th Glenda, Jean, Ruth and Mary.
- 5th Dorothy, Barbara.
- 6th Norma, Marlene.

Manchester Trip

On 11th October a small group of us met at Wigan station to travel to Manchester to visit the Whitworth Art Gallery, which is now part of Manchester University.

We had time for only a brief look around a couple of the galleries before we were due at the café for an early lunch. The food was delicious and the location of the café was excellent with lovely views over the surrounding parkland.

After lunch we walked to the Pankhurst Centre, the house where Emmeline Pankhurst lived with her daughters from 1898 to 1907. There is very little of the house that is currently accessible to the public but there are plans for significant development of the building over the next five years. We were very fortunate to arrive there just in time for the start of a musical recital which was being held in the parlour to celebrate the 105th anniversary of the first meeting of the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) in the house. Two young musicians played several pieces including a song written by Ethel Smyth called 'The March of Women' which became the official anthem of the women's suffrage movement.

We then made our way back to the Whitworth for a guided tour.



Our guide, Dave, was very well-informed and gave us a very interesting talk. He began by taking us outside and explaining how the art gallery was originally founded in 1889 and has recently undergone considerable redevelopment and been doubled in size. He then took us

around several of the galleries pointing out works of particular interest. The artwork on display was very varied ranging from an exhibition of black and white prints by Goya and Hogarth to contemporary work by a South African artist, William Kentridge, and exhibitions of textiles and wallpaper. There was also an exhibition curated by the children from a local primary school who had been able to select items that appealed to them from the Whitworth's extensive collection and the result was a varied collection of artwork which spanned 400 years.

Elizabeth Hayward

Aspull Amblers

This month's walk was held on Tuesday 6th November in Haigh Woodland Park. This walk was split to allow a long route for amblers and a short route for strollers. The weather was good to us again, although cloudy, it was calm and the rain stayed away.

The amblers:

Doreen, Ruth, Gill B and myself (Gill D) set off on the longer route through the woodland with our dogs, April, Daisy, Rosie and Bonnie. The dogs were let off lead and they enjoyed their freedom, especially April (Doreen's dog) who must have ran around for miles! We had a nice relaxing walk and chat as we made our way



through the scenic woods with some leaves still falling and lots of crisp, golden leaves on the ground that we enjoyed wading through and kicking up. We walked past the pond and towards the canal before turning up in the direction of the Hall again. On the way to the Hall we

bumped into Standish WI walking group and had a natter with them and there was a suggestion about joining together for some walks in the future which would be great! We walked 2.5 miles (6,100 steps) according to my phone app. We then joined with the 'Strollers' and enjoyed refreshments in the courtyard.

Gill Davies

The strollers:

Hester, Ann, Pat and I (Hazel) took Rohan and Rusty on the shorter walk around the Walker garden at Haigh Hall. We completed over 4000 steps as we meandered around the gardens taking endless artistic photos of trees, fruits, fungi, stones, rocks and plants that we are hoping to use in our art projects. The app on my phone identified some of the plants and Hester helped to hone our photographic skills using light, focus and context. The keen eye of our art teacher sees things from a different perspective and we amassed some amazing autumnal scenes. It was so enjoyable that Hester is going to run an Art/Photographic walking group on alternate Mondays to our Art class and everyone is welcome to join us. Hazel



Next walk: The next walk for Aspull Amblers will be held on Tuesday 6th December at 1:30pm, the location is to be decided and any suggestions are welcome! Gill Davies

Art Group

The art group is pleased to announce that their first exhibition will be at Blackrod Library from the 4th April till the end of April. Apart from having sorted our exhibition we have had very successful get togethers this month. Mostly everyone choses what they will be doing and the materials they will be using so we get lots of different work done. Our last session was a demonstration of a different technique where we all did the same image with a step by step demonstration of the process. This class was doing something no one had tried before. We first roughly drew the



image of some flowers in pencil, then used indian ink to refine the drawing, putting in more detail. We created shading with washes of indian ink, then when we were ready we used watercolours to give colour to our work. One original photo, lots of different results with everyone pleased with what they had done. A technique we will be trying again. New members are always more than welcome to come along and give it a try, and have a cuppa and biscuit, don't worry about the standard of your work, just come along to enjoy yourself, its therapeutic.

Hester

Games Group

There is always lots of laughing and joking at our games afternoon, although I must admit we all like to win. We learned new rules for Scrabble from our resident expert Bev, while the Rummikub team developed their skills and found the game to be totally addictive. We hardly have time for tea amidst the excitement but fortunately someone always remembers to put the kettle on. Please note our next games afternoon will be mid January. Hazelxx

Craft Group

The craft group made many poppies but concentrating on fabric and Fimo to make sure that there was plenty of texture and originality in our wreath.

This month we have acknowledged that Christmas is on the horizon. We wanted to do something to boost the donations for the Women's



Refuge and decide it would be best to raise money that could be spent specifically for the ladies who have to take refuge this Christmas. To that end we have made up a selection of Christmas decorations from a craft set donated by my mum, who used to be a member of

A&H WI. So please help to support by buying these unique trinkets. Gill

Knitting Together

The knitting group's projects are ongoing from knitting poppies for the WI wreath, to jumpers, cardigans, cushions and crocheted baby booties. The afternoons have been sociable and fun, chatting with a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

This months dates are: 13th and 27th November. Gill Davies

Singing for Fun

We started our sessions again after a short break and were delighted to welcome a new member to our group, Sheila.

We started this week by having a discussion about what we are to sing at the Christmas Party. It didn't take long and our decision made we started to practice. All we have to do now is to prepare and with time running out we will now have weekly sessions.

There is still room for anyone who feels the urge to sing and have fun! Marie

Theatre Group



Cliff's 60th Anniversary Concert. The concert was streamed live from the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester where the atmosphere was amazing. Cliff occasionally addressed the 80,000 of us watching from cinemas across the country so that we felt included but we all wished that we had attended the actual

concert. There was an audience with Cliff then the first half of a concert which took songs through the decades from the 50s to the 00s with some of his new songs. At the end he sang Rise up and also Reborn from his new album and they were excellent. It is his 78th birthday and 60th anniversary but he ran and danced around the stage like a forty year old. He said that he had gone through four terrible years but he is back stronger than ever and we danced in the aisles at the end of the concert. It was an amazing evening. Hazel

Cinema Club

A group of our ladies went to see the recent film about Queen. The film, mostly dedicated to the rise and fall of Freddie Mercury, opened and closed with Queen's triumphant performance at Live Aid in 1985, the film shows the transformation of shy student, Farrokh Bulsara, the closeted son of Parses parents, into the strutting swaggering Freddie Mercury. Freddie is shown approaching a band he likes backstage at a club in London, and so the stage is set for an extraordinary tale. An epic rise to fame and fortune with his bandmates in Queen, fantastic songs, fabulous wealth and adoration, yet, we saw an unhappy, troubled character, drawn into a hedonistic lifestyle which was ultimately his downfall.

Rami Malek, who played Mercury did a sterling job, totally believable in the role. He tapped into Mercury's ferocious energy, particularly in the concert sequences, all of which gave you the electric sense of what it might have been like to be there in person. Some reviews have hinted that the film skirted around Mercury's lifestyle but I think we all agreed that we were given the sense of what happened without needless sensationalism.

A great evening's entertainment! Pat Dent

Quilting Group

Our quilting group continues to grow as new people come along to try quilting. Those who are already experienced sewers find they soon learn the various techniques required whilst those who've never used a sewing machine are given encouragement the basics.

All who come along share the skills they have and there is never any pressure to complete a project at anything but their own pace. Most importantly we have FUN with lots of chat and ideas for future projects to attempt. If anyone discovers a new fabric shop or a new internet site that too is shared.

Pat H

Best of Bolton

On 10 November 2018 I entered Bolton Library/Museum as a Writer. If anyone had told me 12 months ago this would happen, I would have laughed. I have never thought that anything I wrote was worth anything at all. I just had a good try and sometimes it worked.

Well, this time it really worked, and the Director of Best of Bolton was full of praise for my piece. There were 300 entries and 50 were chosen. I wouldn't like to have had the job of choosing! Twenty-five pieces were performed in the afternoon and the other twenty-five in the evening. Poems, monologues and stories were performed between four actors.

It proved to be a wonderfully entertaining afternoon and I was full of anticipation for my piece. My piece came in the second half, towards the end of the show, so I had a long wait. As the writer, my name was announced before the reading and that's when the palms went clammy. But I needn't have worried because the



poem was well received by the audience. The actors did a brilliant job and I couldn't fault the performance.

There was comedy, emotion and sadness, and the actors read out the works as if they were doing a scene from a play. This was all down to the Director and her brilliant skills.

We were also entertained by singers, who are students studying Musical Theatre at Pendleton School of Music. They sang beautifully.

I wish now that I had sold it to you, the members of the WI, but for some strange reason I thought you might get bored.

I really regret that now. It cost £5 or £3 for concessions and what can you get for that price now? It paid for a wonderful afternoon's entertainment.

Sheila Hinds

Trips and Events

Monday 26th November is our new Art Walk lead by Hester. It will be a short walk around Mesnes Park in Wigan with plenty of photo opportunities en route. We are hoping it will inspire our art projects but all members are welcome to join us and we will end the walk with a cuppa at the Frederick's cafe. Meet outside the metal park gates near the lodge at the corner of Mesnes Park Terrace and Bridgeman Terrace at 10.00am

Saturday 17th November is our Tyrers trip to Llandudno and the Christmas markets.

Tuesday 4th December at 1.30pm is the next Aspull Amblers walk. Gill D will send out the details via email.

Wednesday 5th December is our trip to Bents for some pre-Christmas retail therapy and lunch. Meet at the main doors of Bents at 11.00am and we will enjoy some of the lovely Christmas displays and hopefully locate a couple of pressies. We will be travelling by car so please let us know if you require transport.

Ten Pin Bowling at AMF Bowl in Wigan will start again on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 1.00pm. We will meet every two weeks until Easter on Tues 29 Jan, 12 Feb, 26 Feb, 12 March, 26 March, 9th April.

Thursday 17th Jan is our next Games Afternoon at Our Ladies Meeting Room at 2.00pm. Rummikub, Scrabble and Dominoes are on offer if you would like join us for a very competitive afternoon.

We are going on a four day David Ogden trip to Rouen, Honfleur and the Normandy coast on Friday 22nd March, Hazel and Patxx

NFWI News

104th ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Bournemouth International Centre on Wednesday 5th June, 2019. Application for Observer tickets £20 each – to be requested on form only. Cl'date: Monday 28th Jan'19.

GDPR: IMPORTANT information available at November/January'2019 meetings only.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

2020 CALENDAR:

'Lancashire through the year' Photographic entries please See flyer at meetings. Closing date Monday 28th January '19

RESOLUTIONS 2019:

Reminder for members to read resolutions 2019 in WI Life. Voting to be done at the January 2019 meeting.

GAMES EVENING @ Barton Village Hall, Barton, Preston on Tuesday 19th February 2019 @ 7.30. Cost £6 each including refreshments. Closing date 9th January 2019.

WORKSHOPS:

Treasurers - Presidents + Secretaries - 2019.

Treasurers: Saturday 9th February or Wednesday 6th March

Presidents: Wednesday 13th February or Saturday 16th Feb.

Secretaries: Wednesday 27th February or Saturday 2nd Mar.

Information at November and January meetings.

Closing date for all: Wednesday 23 January 2019.

GREEN FINGERS' + Avant Garden Centre are offering a day for anyone who wishes to develop their gardening skills.

To be held on Wednesday 23 Jan'19. If interested -

Please contact Helen 0142 832321 for more information.

ZEN Embroidery Workshop: Friday 22nd or Saturday 23rd Feb'19

@ LWFI Offices, Croston House, Leyland. Cost £20 + £2 materials

Time: 10am to 3.30pm. Closing date Thursday 24th January'19

LUNCH @ Oak Royal Golf & Country Club with Jen Williams –

Retired Detective Superintendent who will speak on 'Dry Bones'

Date: Wednesday 20th February- 12.00 for 12.30. Price £20.

Closing date: Thursday 24th January 2019.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT-CLAYTON-LE-WOODS SINGERS

St. Ambrose Church, Leyland - Friday 14TH Dec'18 @ 7.30pm.

Tickets £7.

**Thanks to Angela from
Aspull Village Embroidery
for donating the ribbon for our wreath**



Birthdays in November; Marilyn, Carole, Pat Dent, Rhona, Norma, Sheila and Pat Henderson.

Birthdays in December; Marlene, Helen and Anne Sherrington.



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.