

Hello and welcome to February, already one twelfth of the year gone! What a welcome February has given us too, with snow, fairly light but because of the cold, able to stay around for a few days. Crocuses and members of the daffodil (okay lets be accurate – narcissi) family poking their sage green shoots out of the sodden earth, and on the trees lovely lambs tails swaying hint at warmer days and secretive shy woodland flowers to come. What has February and Spring got in store for Aspull and Haigh WI, well we have tickets on sale for our Beacon Group Meeting on 24th April, where we will be entertained by the Eden Singers. We will be having refreshments and, of course, raffle prizes with lots of opportunity to meet and chat to old friends and new. As there are four WI's in the Beacon Group we only play host once every four years – the last time Aspull and Haigh hosted is still a talking point amidst our members. As well as Beacon Group we have the Lancashire Federation Council Meeting at Southport to look forward to in March, this years' speakers are Edwina Curry and Sir Ranulph Fiennes. All of these things on top of our very busy schedule of groups and events that we run on a regular basis. Looking outward from our WI I passed by what used to be Worsley New Hall Garden Centre and wondered how it was progressing. The garden centre was based mainly in the old walled garden which the RHS is restoring as part of the new RHS Garden Bridgewater. When first it hit the news it seemed like we would be waiting for ever for the opening, but the first phase is due to open this year, an RHS garden very nearly on our doorstep!

Hester

Last Meeting

Our first meeting of the WI Year saw us debating the Women's Institute Resolutions for 2019.

We were given spirited resumes on the issues of the day....

1. Improving Plant Biosecurity in the UK
2. Trees – Improving the Natural Landscape
3. Pelvic Floor Education
4. Suffering in silence; end the taboo around menstrual health
5. A Call against the Decline in Local Bus Services
6. Don't fear the smear

After listening to the pros and cons surrounding the issues, members were asked to vote on the one that resonated with them the most. It seemed that declining bus services was the clear winner at Aspull and Haigh but the complete results will be put forward to the national team.

After all that healthy debate, tea, coffee and cake was enjoyed.

Pat D.

Wigan & Leigh Hospice Collection



At the Christmas party we had our usual collection for the Hospice and on Thursday 17th January Gill Davies and I took the proceeds of the collection along to hand over a cheque. Aspull and Haigh WI raised £101.20 in donations for which we were thanked by Christine Edwardson, the Community Fundraiser. We were given a letter of thanks which outlines the work that they do and which your donations will help towards. Included in the letter is this sentence

“The hospice needs to raise £9,700 each and every day in order to continue to deliver these services to local people. This would not be possible without the kind support of people like you.”

Hester

Next Meeting

Monday; 11th March 'History of the WI'. Gill Brown

Competition; what does the WI mean to you? Just a sentence or two.

LFWI Quiz

This turned out to be a really pleasant evening. We were all a little apprehensive after last year's tales of a night of obscure and impossible questions but we all agreed that this year the general knowledge questions were pitched at the right level, fair and possible to have a good attempt at. Often when the answer was revealed we said we should have known that which I think is the sign of a good quiz.

Our two teams both put in a creditable performance. The Aspulations and Haigh Hey Hey both amassed scores in the 40's with The Aspulations marginally ahead with 46 points. The Salford Angels won overall with a score in the mid 50's. Of course it goes without saying that we could have emulated their fantastic score if we hadn't spent a considerable amount of time talking ourselves out of the right answer on quite a few occasions!!! Ha Ha.

Here is a taster of some of the questions.

What is the collective noun for a group of tigers?

What is the most popular street name in the UK?

Which was Walt Disney's first animated movie?

What was the name of the ship that Cook sailed on to the East coast of Australia?

Who wrote Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy?

Answers from one of our team members (hopefully)!

Thanks to Anne Couchman for providing sausage rolls and nibbles - brain food to keep us going on what was a very chilly night, just what was needed. Ruth Blakeman

Aspall Amblers

Yes, I know I said we wouldn't do this in January and February as it can be very cold, but fresh air and countryside called to me so off we went on the morning of Monday 4th February. Nine of us this time with five dogs and a gorgeous cute little puppy! Despite the snowfall and freezing conditions of the preceding few days, we had mild, pleasant weather and the sun actually joined us for a while! We walked from Rivington Hall car park, down past the lower barn and along



the lakeside path, then past Rivington primary school, through the chapel grounds to the lovely teashop that “welcomes muddy boots and dogs” as the sign on the door stated. There was a roaring log fire inside and most enjoyed and nice hot cup of tea and a toasted teacake before heading up from the tearoom back to the

car park. We covered approximately 2 miles and really enjoyed ourselves.

Please consider joining us on our next walk, we plan to walk around the Upper Rivington reservoir and then finish in the same teashop as this time. We will meet on the car park at the primary school on Thursday 14th March at 10:30 am. I've booked the sunshine especially for you! (Ooh I hope I've not tempted fate!).

Gill Davies

Art Group

Our first meeting of the year! Wow and already it feels ages ago. Some of the group had been given art equipment as part of Christmas so we all settled down to painting and drawing our own work. For our second meeting it was decided to do another tutorial on using Indian ink and watercolour. This time we did either a Lake District landscape or a study of honesty seed heads. Both sessions were great fun with everyone chatting over tea, coffee and biscuits. We always know if work is going well, we almost forget to have a break but if someone's concentration falters then they quickly count heads and tea break starts. As the saying goes “A picture paints a thousand words” look at the photos of our recent sessions.

Hester



Tenpin Bowling



The bowling group which met on Tuesday at the Hollywood Bowl Bolton was well represented. There were two teams on two different lanes. Some people had the sides up to give them more confidence and some people had the sides down. The main thing is that everyone had lots of fun. There was a break in between games for refreshments.

Great delight was taken when one of the ladies got a strike lots of friendly rivalry. Anyone wishing to come along and try their hand is most welcome. Marilyn

Cinema Group

STAN AND OLLIE

VUE CINEMA, 7TH JANUARY

I had looked forward to this film and I was not disappointed. I had seen both actors interviewed recently on TV and I knew it was about the downfall of two of Hollywood's biggest stars in their later years.

The duo had fallen out of favour with audiences, as new comedy talent was on the scene and television was also creating a new form of entertainment. The impeccable performances John C Reilly, who played Oliver Hardy, and our own Steve Coogan, as Stan Laurel, just held my attention from the very beginning. They successfully took on the characters, both in mannerisms and physicality. It amused me that, despite Stan's bulk, he looked so light on his feet when they did their dances together.

The two embarked on a tour of the UK, but their popularity was already on the decline and they finished up playing almost empty houses in small music halls. They were staying in cheap lodging houses and it was not what they were used to. They tried to make the best of it, as the reason for the tour was to make money for a new movie based on Robin Hood. It was to be their movie comeback. However, this was never to be. Stan Laurel went to see Mr Muffin about financing the film but was brushed off by his secretary. It almost brought a tear to my eyes. He made such a sorrowful, Lowry like figure. Unfortunately, there was never going to be another movie.

Eventually, the impresario, Bernard Delfont, got them a couple of good bookings and the audiences increased. The wives of the double act had come across from the States, and things started to improve. But Stan's health took a turn for the worse, with a mild heart attack and the rest of the tour had to be cancelled. The duo and their wives went back to the USA and never worked again. Stan and Ollie bickered like an old married couple, or siblings who had been together too long. But, as soon as they were on stage, or in front of a camera, they snapped into character. They were the ultimate professionals – comic genius at its best! Sheila Hinds

Craft Group

We spent our first session of the year deciding which crafts we wanted to attempt in 2019. Obviously we wanted to challenge ourselves and to take into consideration some of the classes in the county show. Craft group will take place once a month with the opportunity to complete items if wished. Dates will be agreed to suit.

Thursday 14th February, the Japanese art of Sashiko embroidery. This is basically white stab/ running stitches on blue fabric. Simple but effective.

March; Felting, wet, dry, needle felting. The opportunity to try something different.

April; a Wall hanging; a potential entry for the show. Decide on your own medium, fabric, weaving, sewn, glued, the choice is yours.

May; Elderflower cordial. Gather the flowers and complete the process, add additional flavours if you wish. OR if you prefer have a go at the vintage craft of flower pressing.

June; Live Willow plaiting. Try your hand at making your own statement growing Willow structure.

July; Wind Chime from recycled material. Potential entry for county show.

August; Jam making. This is a group effort with everyone taking home a jar of jam.

September; An Autumn inspired wreath.

October, November and December; Christmas themed crafts.

Gill B

Games Afternoon



Lots of fun and laughter at our games afternoon and our concentration was heightened by a large tin of chocolates provided by Father Kevin. Connect Four, Scrabble and Rummikub were all on offer and as usual Rummikub was both the most competitive and the favourite game of the day. As we improve our skills we are hoping to offer a more strategic game of Scrabble so that Ruth will have some competition. If you would like a competitive game or just a few laughs then please feel free to join us on Thursday 28th February at 2pm at Our Lady's meeting room.

Hazelxx

Knitting Together

The knitting group is a relaxed afternoon of knitting and chatting over a cup of tea and biscuits. The brave few who have been battling the cold weather to attend are most welcome and have enjoyed the socialization that can be so needed in our long dark winters. It won't be long ladies before we are sat outside on the patio once more!

I personally love knitting and it can be very relaxing. Easy knitting projects that are the same few stitches over and over, mean that you can 'zone out'. The rhythmic, repetitive motion and relaxation

has the same benefits to your mind and body as a meditation session, except you get a blanket at the end! Come along to the next sessions on Tuesdays 19th February and 5th March at 2:00pm, Our Lady's.

Gill Davies

Lunch Group



We met at the Gerard Arms for our first lunch of 2019. It was good to meet with friends and enjoy good, plentiful food in pleasant surroundings. We are fortunate to have plenty of restaurants, cafes and pubs in close proximity where we can enjoy a decent fair priced meal. The Gerard is certainly popular and we would all recommend the sweet potato chips. Gill.

Singing for Fun

Hello all singers, Having considered that we are still in the grip of winter and some people find it difficult to get out in the evenings at this time of year, I have decided to leave the start of singing until March 6th.

Thereafter the sessions will be 20th March, 3rd April, 17th April, 1st May and every fortnight when it can be managed. He this meets with your approval.

Love Marie xx

Trips and Events

Join us for Ten Pin Bowling at Hollywood Bowl on the Middlebrook on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at 11.00am. We play two games and the price is £6.49 payable on the day. We will meet every two weeks until Easter on 26 Feb, 12 March, 26 March, 9th April.

Thursday 28th February is our next Games Afternoon at Our Ladies Meeting Room at 2.00pm. Rummikub, Scrabble, Connect 4 and Dominoes are on offer if you would like join us for a lots of laughs and light hearted fun. We also have some very competitive players if you would like to test your skills. We meet monthly until Easter and so our last game will be on Thursday 28th March and we will start again in October.

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

Tyrers are running a trip to the RHS Flower Show at Chatsworth on Saturday 8th June. The cost is £48.30 and we will collect the money at the February meeting Hazel and Pat

NFWI News

104th ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Bournemouth International Centre on Wednesday 5th June, 2019.

If anyone interested in attending – Observer tickets on sale @ £20 – Closing date: Monday 28th Jan'19.

Dates for your diary from LFWI

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING to be held at Southport Theatre on Thursday 14th March 2019
Doors open 9.30. Meeting commences 10.45 – 3.30.
Speakers: Edwina Currie + Sir Ralph Fiennes.
Admittance Tickets 15 + Lunch £8 if required.
Closing date: Wednesday 20th February 2019.

CHAIRMAN'S CENTENARY CHALLENGE
Calling all our 'crafty' ladies.
Design a sewing box for Lancs. Room @ Denman.
To be submitted to LFWI Leyland by 17 June'19

COUNTY SHOW INFO: 'A GNOME IN ANY MEDIUM'
'Betty Sanderson Memorial Trophy'
Refer to 2019 County Show Schedule
Closing date: Friday 9th August '19.

GOOD BEGINNINGS MEAN HAPPY ENDINGS'
COUNTY SHOW TIPS: See dates/venues for sessions...
Saturday 6 April – LFWI Offices, Leyland 10 – 12noon
Wednesday 17 April – St. Anne's-on-Sea – 1.00 – 3.00.
Thursday 25 April - St. Marie Church Hall, Standish 1-3.00
Monday 6 May – LFWI Offices, Leyland 6.00 – 8.00.
Saturday 11 May – LFWI Offices, Leyland 10.00 - 12noon
Closing date: Wednesday 13 March '19.

SUMINAGASHI PAPER MARBLING + BOOK BINDING
@ Leyland Offices - Friday 12 April or Sat 13 April '19
Time: 10.00 to 3.30. Cost £20 plus materials.
Closing date: Thursday 7th March '19.

SINGING DAY with Katy Bradley on Monday 8th April '19 @
Broughton Club, Broughton, Preston. 10 for 10.30 – 3.30
Cost £10. Closing date: Monday 18th March 2019.

WALK IN BRETHERTON – Friday 12th April '19 from 10.30am
@ Bretherton Village Institute, Leyland PR26 9AB
Closing date: Monday 18th March, 2019

WALKING TREASURE HUNT – ECCLESTON. Cost £10
Wed 15 May '19 - 6.00 - 9.00 from Original Farmers Arms
Eccleston, Chorley PR75QS. Closing date: Thur. 25 April '19.

WORKSHOP: 'Taking better photo's with your mobile' on
Fri 17th May or Sat. 18th May '19. @ Leyland Offices, Leyland
10.00 - 3.30. Cost £10. Closing date Thursday 25 April '19



Birthdays in February
Gill Entwistle - Clare Kenyon
Beverley Graham - Nora Johnson.

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.

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INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

NEWS

February

2019



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