

Happy Easter everyone, yes I know it's not Easter yet but this is the nearest date we will be meeting before the actual event. March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb, however April has decided that the statement 'April showers bring May flowers' wasn't strong enough, so we have had showers, hail, storms and snow so I hope you have all managed to keep snug and warm. The ladies who went to Rouen certainly had good weather, though a little chilly at night. On Sunday we were all shrugging off coats as we walked around exploring Honfleur! April is a busy month with our WI hosting the Beacon Group Meeting so I hope to see lots of you there. Hopefully we will all look like graceful swans on the evening and no one will see the frantic paddling going on behind the scenes to prepare for it. For those of you unsure about the Beacon Group, it's a lovely social evening with entertainment by the Eden Singers singing songs from the musicals, a buffet supper and raffle prizes. A busy time too for the art group as we have put up our paintings and drawings for our first exhibition. I can only say try and get along to Blackrod library whilst the exhibition is on as it looked really fantastic when all the pictures were put up. Well done art group. Hopefully this April meeting you will all be buying the beautiful cakes available that our aspiring Bake Off members have made, proceeds from which will help boost our funds for the coming months.

Hester

## Last Meeting



'The WI', Gill Brown

Inspiring, uplifting, informative and sometimes amusing the talk on the WI from its early beginning in Canada in 1897 to the present day Gill kept us enthralled and amazed, I'm sure, with her wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the WI. She told us about the variety and range of the organisation including Goth, prison and even royal groups. It made me feel very proud to be a member of such a prestigious and respected organisation.

Thank you Gill.

Marlene

We discovered that the British WI, which began in 1915 in Llanfair P G, had its roots back in Ontario, Canada.

"Jerusalem" was adopted by us after its use as a protest anthem by Suffragettes and "Jam" became a part of the heritage after a call to produce over 5000 tons of it to feed the nation during the Second World War. As the movement grew, so did its influence. From Keep Britain Tidy to the Welfare State, the WI has played a part.

The talk was supported by a very professional visual presentation ( OK, there were some glitches, Technology comes at a cost.) We all learned something new and were given just cause to be proud to be a part of such a movement. Thanks Gill. Barbara Alker.

## Competition Results

Competition Results

1st Gill Davies

2nd Marie Mallony

3rd Gill Brown

## Next Meeting

Next Meeting Monday; 13th May 'Spinning a Yarn' with Pat Oxley

Competition; An item made with yarn. This could be a felted item, knitted or any other use of wool, cotton or other type of yarn.

## Aspull Amblers

Come and join us for our next healthy walk around the Upper Rivington reservoir and finishing in Rivington village tea shop. Dogs welcome. We will meet on the car park at the primary school on Monday 15th April at 10:00 am. See you there!

Gill Davies

## Art Group



What a busy, busy group of artists we have been. Back in November when we first booked our first exhibition it was all 'No, I'm not putting anything in. My work just isn't good enough/I haven't got anything to put in'. Innocently I thought we are only going to get twenty or thirty paintings.



Well, I was proved wrong. As we moved in to March we began to realise that instead of our usual two sessions we would be missing one as half the group were off to Rouen, so a meeting was added, then we had another extra meeting to make sure everyone was ready for D Day, Thursday 4th of April. The buzz of the last two meetings was fantastic, worries seemed to fade as everyone became excited about the exhibition. The confidence boost that the exhibition has given everyone is fantastic (I seem to be using that word a lot!) Members were bringing in framed work to show one another and all of a sudden we had a vibrant, exciting set of paintings. I cannot say how proud and exciting it was to see, particularly looking back to less than two years ago when everyone came along saying 'I haven't painted since I was at school/My art teacher didn't think I was any good/I can't paint or draw.' How many paintings will you see when you go along? Just under 60!

Hester

## Cinema Group

### Fisherman's Friends

The film is based on a true story about Port Isaacs Fisherman's Friends a group of Cornish fishermen who were signed by Universal Records and achieved a top 10 hit with their debut album of traditional sea shanties.

The film stars an ensemble cast headed by Daniel Mays, James Purefoy and Tuppence Middleton with David Hayman, Noel Clarke, Dave Johns, Maggie Stead.

The Plot

A fast living, cynical London music executive reluctantly heads to Cornwall on a colleagues stag weekend where he's pranked by his boss into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen. He becomes the ultimate fish out of water struggling to gain respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band who value friendship and community over fame and fortune. Attempting to overcome the fishermen's scepticism about the music business, he finds himself drawn into the community, has his integrity tested and ultimately is shown the meaning of loyalty, love and friendship. This forces him to re-evaluate what really matters in life. Ultimately this will give him the chance of a different kind of success.

This was a really heart-warming feel good movie. Lots of sea shanty songs, lots of laughs, sad bits, a bit of romance, great scenery of Port Isaac and Cornwall. An excellent film to watch.

Marilyn

## Craft Group

Wet felting pictures is great fun because it is quick and you



are never quite sure how the fibres will meld together so it's a complete surprise to remove the rolling pin and the bubble wrap and see the end results. Most of the group opted to felt in this way; just Jo and Hester attempted



anything different. Hester tried needle felting which is more time consuming and somewhat dangerous as the needles are very sharp and barbed which she found out to her cost!

The next Craft session will be either 11th or 25th April. Please let me know which is most

convenient for everyone. The topic is 'Wall hanging'. This is in line with the county show and is very much a personal choice. Either bring your own materials or let me know what you want to try. I have plenty of various materials to use. Perhaps you could utilise your felt picture, or try something new such as weaving, applique or hand stitching.

Gill

## Lunch Group



Weather superb, food delicious and company pretty good too! Avril, Marlene, Maureen, Marie, Pam, Gill and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the 'Rivington Bar & Grill' on Friday 29th April, a restaurant that we would recommend a return visit. Along with other clubs we run, the lunch club is a good excuse to get together, have a laugh and solve the world's problems in hours - how good is this?

Seriously we would welcome anyone who would like to join us. Details are available at the monthly meetings.

April lunch will be discussed at the meeting on Monday.

Helen

## Knitting Together

Due to low attendance in the winter and the room being very cold, I have made the decision to suspend Knitting Together until Tuesday 28th May. It will then run fortnightly until the end of September. It will be lovely through the summer as we can sit and knit outside on the patio and admire the view across to Rivington and Winter Hill. The future plan is to run the group from May to September each year but this depends on attendance so please support the group if you wish it to continue.

Gill Davies

## Trip to Rouen, France

Friday 22nd March

After a very early start from St. Elizabeth's Hall we made our way to Rouen. The journey was pleasant without any hold ups, arriving at the hotel early evening.

After settling in we all opted to eat in the hotel, have an early night ready to explore Rouen on Saturday.

Rouen old town is beautiful, full of interesting buildings, a marvellous cathedral, enticing coffee shops and of course the wonderful art gallery with the Monet paintings we all were excited to see.

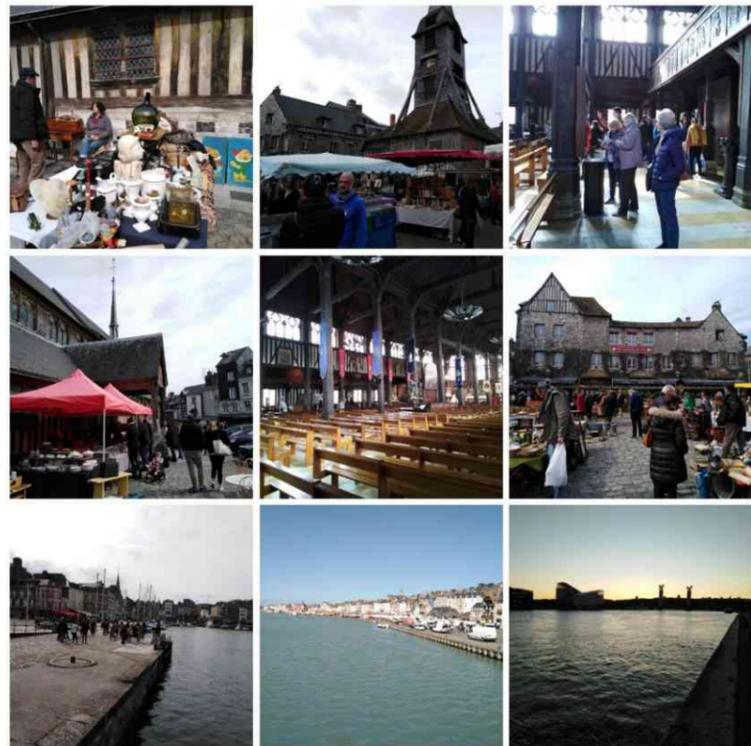
Sunday a beautiful sunny day and a visit to Hornfleur, what a picturesque town, with the Seine flowing through the centre, so much naval history, lots of cafes to enjoy a drink whilst watching the world go by, could have spent much longer taking in the peaceful atmosphere.

Next we visited Deauville and Trouville. A short walk over the Seine for a leisurely lunch before heading back to Rouen. Sunday evening meal was tapas by the river a good way to end our stay in Rouen.

A great time had by all, good company, Lots of laughs along the way. My first visit to Normandy, enjoyed it immensely, a smooth uneventful journey home, brilliant.

A big thank you to Pat and Hazel,

we appreciate all your hard work organising the weekend, look forward to the next. Doreen Kay



## Trips and Events

24th April we are hosting the Beacon meeting. Don't forget to get you ticket to enjoy an evening with our Beacon partners; Ladybridge, Badshaw and Harwood and Heaton. We will be entertained by the Eden singers.

We are organising a trip to Manchester on Thursday 2nd May to have lunch at the Botanist, followed by a free tour of the Manchester Art Gallery. We will also see the small collection of the De Vinci drawings. We will be travelling by train from Hindley and if you would like to join us please add your name to the list at the April WI meeting.

JUST RECEIVED... Invitation from Horwich WI to their 10th Birthday Celebrations on Sat. 18th May 2.00-4.00

Venue: 'Mill Hole' Mill Lane, Horwich. £5 Directions will be available at April meeting.

Our annual garden trip this year is to a Tyrers coach trip to the RHS Flower Show at Chatsworth on Saturday 8th June. Hazel and Patxx

## NFWI News

IMPORTANT: 'Resolution Shortlist Briefing Notes' Received. Information available @ April meeting.

104th ANNUAL MEETING to be held on 5th June '19 @ Bournemouth International Centre.

RAFFLE TICKETS – few remaining raffle tickets on sale at April meeting. 1st Prize: £10,000. Cost £1 per ticket. See treasurer. Cl Date Sept '19.

## Dates for your diary from LFWI

THE CHAIRMAN'S CENTENARY CHALLENGE: Design sewing box for Lancs. Room @ Denman. Info. @ April meeting. Closing date: 17 June '19.

COUNTY SHOW: 'A GNOME IN ANY MEDIUM' 'BETTY SANDERSON MEMORIAL TROPY' See flyer at meetings. Entries to be in by July '19.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT – ECCLESTON on Wednesday 15th May. See flyer @ April meeting.

WORKSHOP: 'Taking better photo's with your mobile' Friday 17th or Saturday 18th May '19 @ Leyland Office See flyer at April meeting.

MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS + THEIR CALLIGRAPHY Talk by Brian Farrimond + Nicky Robertson on 21st June. Cost £10. Closing date 23 May '19.

AMIGURAMI WORKSHOP: See flyer @ April meeting. Closing date Thursday 24th May '19.

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP: @ Leyland Office on Sun. 7th July or Wed. 10th July '19. £20 + £20 for willow. Details @ April meeting. Cl.date: Thur. 13th June '19.

'HAVE A GO' @ ARCHERY on Tue 9th July '19 - £21. Venue: Samlesbury Club, Nabs Head Ln. Samlesbury. Details @ April/May meetings. Cl.date: 13th June '19.

A DAY TRIP TO LLANDUDNO – Thursday 11th July '19 Info. @ April + May meetings. Cl.date: Tue. 11th June.



Birthdays in April  
Anne Couchman-3rd  
Joyce Dalglish-8th, Doreen Hartley-13th,  
Avril-17th, Gill Brown-24th, Dorothy Spain-28th

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](http://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 2019



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