

Welcome to the May Newsletter. April was a busy month with our art group having its first exhibition and our WI hosting the Beacon Group Meeting. Read more about both in the rest of the newsletter. May is, by comparison, a quiet month. So far May has been a bit wet and cold, let's hope the rest of the month is warmer. This month will see the elderflower blossoming, last year thanks to Gill Brown many of us learnt to make elderflower cordial which was lovely and refreshing. Gill will again be running a craft event to make more of this lovely cordial this month too. Which reminds me that there is a class for homemade fruit or flower cordial in the Lancashire Federation Craft and Produce Show in September. There are lots of classes available to enter and this year the theme of the show is 'In the Garden'. It would be lovely if we had lots of entries this year. Keep the dates in your diary, 9th August is last date for entries, though Helen Sloan will need your entry lists before then so that she can co-ordinate everything and send the entries off. Items for craft, papercraft, art and photos will need to be with Helen before 22nd September and on Tuesday 24th September sugarcraft, horticulture, floral art, children's classes and the Co-operative entry will need to be taken to Garstang. Finally we can go along to Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Club on Wednesday and Thursday 25th and 26th September to view the wonderful exhibits. Let's get busy making our entries this month everyone.

Hester

### Last Meeting

WI Meeting - Monday 8TH April 2019...

Shoes were the topic of conversation at the April meeting. An excellent presentation was given to members by Karen - Assistant Manager and Jemma - Team Leader from Clark's shop in the Grand Arcade. The brand was founded in 1825 by brothers, Cyrus and James Clark. This shop i.e. 'Tonks' is a franchise of Clarks; a family-run business who are proud of both the quality of the footwear - 'Clarks Shoes' and service; to the point of relatives giving a hand when busy! Karen gave a brief history of the shoe - going back many years when shoes/sandals were made from plants, cloth, sheepskin, wood and leather and although these materials are still used, new products are proving to be very popular as well as comfortable! We were given the opportunity to try the various shoes which were passed around and we were spoilt for choice as we drooled over 'Cloud Stopper' 'Structured and Unstructured' One particular pink and black flat shoe was very popular and almost too pretty to wear! Sizes, shapes, colours, something for everyone! Members were included in a raffle which entitled the winner to purchase a pair of shoes/sandals from the shop - Doreen Kay was the much envied winner (actually, we were all very pleased for her) who visited the shop to make her purchase. See picture. The members were also invited to Clarks i.e. 'Tonks' to receive 20% discount on purchases before July'19. Helen

### Competition Results

- 'A Decorated/Decorative Shoe.'
- 1st Glenda Fletcher
- 2nd Norma Walker
- 3rd Mary Hart



### Next Meeting

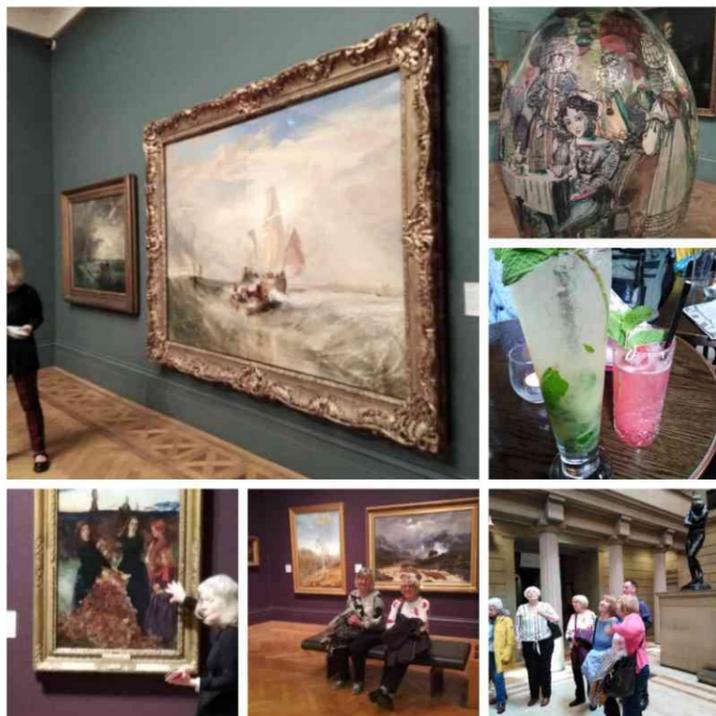
Next Meeting Monday; 10th June 'The Roman Road through Aspull. A talk by Patrick Maloney Competition; an item of 'Historical Interest' prior to 1970's.

### Beacon Group Meeting

The Beacon Group Meeting this year was hosted by our WI and I think we made it a successful event. On the day a group of us went along to pick up the buffet and then went to the venue. At 2 o'clock the work party walked in to the venue and set to arranging tables, chairs, table cloths, table settings and the buffet. By 4pm the hard working team had transformed the room, it looked tremendous. By 7pm guests started to arrive, most travelling by car, but at least one coach load came too. The room began to buzz with chatter as folks settled down, bought drinks and raffle tickets. The start of proceedings was the business part of the meetings as first of all everyone was welcomed, then it was on with the show. And what a show it was. With a 32 strong choir, led by Adrian, with our own Sue Henderson on the front row they gave us renditions of songs from the musicals. Adrian gave interesting, informative and often fun introductions to each group of songs and all too soon it was time for the buffet and raffle draw. Sandwiches, salads and cakes eaten, the buffet drawn it was time for exercise as everyone checked under their chair to see if they had won their tables centre piece. The second half of evening commenced with yet more songs from the musicals. Members of the audience joined in with choruses, the choir excelled themselves and all too soon it was 10pm. Thanks were given for the evening by Linda Blackley, President of Ladybridge WI, Kath Rigby, President of Heaton WI gave thanks for the evening. We have had such lovely comments from people who attended, including Adrian on behalf of the Eden Singers, I think we can say the evening was a success. Thank you to all who came, but especial thanks to those who set everything up before the meeting and to those who stayed to clear up afterwards. By 10.45 all evidence of a wonderful evening had disappeared.

Hester

### Trip to Manchester Art Gallery



Hazel, Pat, Anne C, Anne B, Doreen K, Doreen H, Ruth and Sheila set off on a showery day to Manchester in order to visit the Manchester Art Gallery. Of course, no day out could be arranged without a leisurely and delicious lunch - this time at the Botanist - an excellent choice.

At the Manchester Art Gallery we took part in a guided tour starting with a brief history of the inception of the Gallery: built by wealthy Mancunian cotton merchants, who wished to bring art to the masses. Details of the original building and a subsequent extension were explained to us. We were then introduced to a small range of artworks starting with those of the 18th Century: used to depict the wealth of the subjects - their exquisite clothing, rococo styling and portraits painted on the Grand Tour. In juxtaposition to these was a vast ceramic vase by Grayson Perry illustrating Victorian Romance and the underlying poverty and death. We moved on to a large work by Turner showing us his immense talent and rather rebellious nature. It was titled 'The Lost Painter' (a seascape) - a reference to the fact that he had been overlooked by the Royal Academy of Arts for an exhibition. A change of style took us to the pre-Raphaelites and Millais - a work showing the Autumn of life and decay. On to the years after the First World War with a beautiful understated painting by Gwen John. It explored the theme of loss after war depicting in a small neutral toned work a table set for tea for one lone person.

We then had time to visit the Leonardo de Vinci exhibits. We were so lucky to see these - though small they were exquisitely drawn with such economy. Clear, concise marks, some on specially prepared coloured paper with a stylus, others in sanguine red. They gave us a glimpse of how detailed, but simple these sketches were, being preparatory works for later paintings. Amazing that they have survived over the centuries. Such talent - if only!!

Getting home was 'interesting'...we seemed to join several hundred other people at Oxford Road station all milling around as platforms were changed, trains cancelled or delayed. We eventually managed to get Doreen on her train to Chorley, we knew she was standing upright, but not sure if she was able to breathe! Such trains as the rest of us could catch were full to bursting, so we took the only sensible option open to us and repaired to the Refuge Bar. With non-alcoholic drinks to fortify us (the 'nohitos' were particularly good), we waited for the crowds to clear and were entertained by some rather good jazz.

We arrived home eventually, a bit later than planned. Many thanks to those providing lifts home from Hindley and special thanks to Pat and Hazel for arranging such a great day - and not least, for knowing where a bar was when we really needed it!

Anne Couchman

### Aspull Amblers

April Amblers co-incided with the Easter holidays so we were a larger group than usual with members, dogs and grandchildren included. The weather was dry, if cool, but we all warmed up as we walked and the sun came out to further improve the conditions. The 3 mile



The 3 mile

walk round the dam was pleasant with plenty of time to chat. Most of the dogs were off lead so they got far more exercise running about than we did. Obviously the event was rounded off with tea and cake, and in some instances lunch at Rivington café. Some of us did a detour on the way home to see the art exhibition and were very impressed with the display.

The next Aspull Amblers walk will be on Monday 20th May at 10:00 am. I've checked with Hester and it's not an art day. Details will be given at the meeting

Gill

### Art Group

Apart from our usual meetings we have had two special events this month. The first was our first ever exhibition with around sixty paintings on display at Blackrod Library. The second was a demonstration and class by our very talented Anne Couchman, where we all created a landscape

with cottages in pastels. We started with sheets of pastel paper and quickly sketched the basics of the painting. Then it was a demonstration of how to create a sky, followed by our efforts of



creating the sky, the stream, the cottages and how to make them zing in the landscape. Then the grasses and reeds, wow time just flew and before we knew it it was cuppa and biscuits time. Finishing touches then we laid our paintings out to look at how we had done. You can see the results in the photo below.



The exhibition at Blackrod was successful, even though we didn't manage to sell any paintings. It inspired us to think about making this an annual event, as well as thinking about running another exhibition closer to Christmas. We borrowed stands from Blackrod Art Group and placed our work along the tops of bookshelves and suddenly the library came to colourful life. When we came to take our paintings down the librarians commented how many people had been in to see the exhibition. The

president of Blackrod Art Group had been along to see the exhibition and said how surprised she was that such a newly established group had put on such a quality show. Many of the art group had visited the show. If you didn't get round to seeing our show, well we will be holding another one at some point in the future.

Hester

## Crown Gren Bowling

We have had our second session of bowling at Aspull Bowling Green and apart from a noisy pheasant (probably looking for a mate) we have had the greens to ourselves. Whilst bowling we have discussed various topics from childcare, holidays, illness and touched on politics with a small p. You will deduce from this our bowling is just for pleasure not to be taken seriously. Our next session is Tuesday May 14th, do come along and join us.

Mary

## Cinema Group

Next viewing will hopefully be The Elton John biopic Rocketman is released on May 24th.

## Theatre Group

### The Entertainer – Wigan Little Theatre - May 2019

John Osborne wrote this play as the follow up to his success of his hard hitting “Look Back in Anger”, with Laurence Olivier in mind for the lead role. It is set in the period of Middle East turmoil – during or following Suez and the demise of the British Empire. In one way it could reflect current political struggles – splitting communities and even families.

Billy and his middle-aged son Archie have music hall written through them like a stick of rock. Billy has retired from the business and sees that the days of twice a night comedians are numbered. Archie refuses to accept this and uses all means to “make a comeback” – at the expense of his wife and ultimately his father Billy. Much of the background to the family tensions are explained to us via conversations between Billy and his granddaughter Jean who is visiting from London.

Archie has two sons – both of whom were called up for National Service. The family are celebrating the release from captivity of one son - Mick – only to discover he is dead. Frank – the other son - was a Conscientious Objector and went to prison for his beliefs. Archie belittles him, constantly reminding him of his brother's (and his own?) fight to defend his country. Jean stands up for Frank and we find out that her visit is as a result of her splitting with her boyfriend – a result of taking part in a Trafalgar Square demonstration against war against his wishes.

As the play reaches its end we find that Archie's brother has offered to move the whole family to Canada for a new start. Archie is trapped – a bit like the rabbit in the headlights. The only life he has known is music hall – can he break with it and escape the tax man – we never find out.

Congratulations to WLT for this production and especially Bob Hopkinson (Billy), Gerald Walker (Archie), Lauren Brown (Jean) and Tara Heywood (Phoebe) all of whom had very demanding parts.

## Lunch Group

LUNCH @ 'THE GERRARD' on Friday 26th April 2019.. Norma – Margaret – Doreen – Avril – Marlene – Sue – Sheila and I enjoyed the 'Gerrard's' delicious and reasonably priced food for which they are famous. Lunch in whichever restaurant, pub, and tea-room we've visited – we have patronised many - is always a relaxed time as we exchange news, views, and enjoy the WI sense of humour. We 'lunch out' on a monthly basis and would love to see members join with us. Helen

## Craft Group

Unfortunately I had to cancel the April meeting. May is time for us to gather the bounty of the hedge rows, specifically targeting Elder flowers to make cordial to sip during the anticipated long hot summer days. There is already evidence of buds so the next meeting will be Thursday 23rd May meeting at 10am. We will start by gathering the flowers from close to Woodend Cottage and put them to steep. We will then complete the process with flowers that I will gather the day before. You will need to bring an airtight bottle with you. I am reliably informed that Gin or Vodka complement the cordial very nicely, especially with ice and a sprig of mint.

Gill

## Trips and Events

The Elton John biopic Rocketman is released on May 24th starring Taron Egerton. It follows the flamboyant life of the rock star and we are hoping to arrange a cinema trip on Monday 3rd June to see it at the Vue Bolton. We will send out more details at the end of May when the show times are released.

Our Annual Garden Trip this year is to the RHS Flower Show at Chatsworth on Saturday 8th June.



We have arranged a tour of the newly refurbished Egyptology Collection and the Art Gallery at Bolton Museum on Monday 17th June. We will travel by bus on the 575 which reaches St David's Aspull at 9.40 am and our tour will start at 10.30 am. The tour is free, just a donation and they offer unlimited tea and coffee for £2.00 each at the Museum.

We will end the trip with a visit to the Olympia Fish and Chip restaurant for lunch.

Hazel and Pat

### INVITATIONS:

HORWICH WI to their 10th Birthday Celebrations on Sat. 18th May 2.00-4.00  
Venue: 'Mill Hole' Mill Lane, Horwich. £5

STANDISH WI FASHION SHOW - Thursday 30th May- £8

PARBOLD WI QUIZ EVENING – Sat. 15 June'19 - £8.50

BELMONT WI GIN EVENING – Thursday 13th June - £5

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

INFO: 104th ANNUAL MEETING - 5th June'19  
@ Bournemouth International Centre.

## 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.

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.

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LUNCH CLUB: Friday 24th May'19. Venue TBA



Birthdays in May  
Judith Taylor, Hester Smithies,  
Maureen Dittman, Ruth Blakeman and  
Glenys Fisher.

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

## May

# 2019



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