

June is here already. I'd like to say glorious June but as I start this I hear thunder! Oh well maybe the weather will improve, I hope so, though we now have lightening accompanying the thunder! May starts the garden festival season with Chelsea Flower Show and number of our ladies will have been to the garden show at Chatsworth by now. It's stunning to think that by next year we will have a RHS garden virtually on our doorstep. Many of you will, like myself, have visited Worsley Old Hall Garden Centre which was situated in what was the walled garden of Worsley Old Hall grounds. I'm really looking forward to my first visit to RHS Bridgewater when it opens. Perhaps this is a trip to write into our WI diaries. Summer is a time for trips and holidays, I hope you have lots of places to go and see, even if not, we have our strawberry and scone evening coming up at next month's meeting, which is always fun. Talking of strawberries, it will soon be the soft fruit season, how many of you will be making jam with excess fruit this year? As we learnt when Gill Brown gave a talk on the WI, making jam was an important part of the WI war effort. Later this year, September to be precise, we have Melanie Latham coming to give a talk entitled 'Chutney and Cheer' and the competition for us will be a homemade preserve, jam, chutney, wine etc. Hopefully we will have lots of entries. One last thought, a memory from many years ago, a friend's daughter was a very active member of the Brownies. She was working towards a badge where one task was to preserve fruit/vegetables etc. Her preserve? She used her father's wine making equipment to make Umbungo wine – and it was very tasty. Hester

Last Meeting Spinning a Yarn



Last month's speaker, Pat Oxley, gave a very informative talk about her knowledge of spinning yarn from the origins through to the present day. Pat explained that she has been spinning now for 5 years and had examples of balls of yarn that she had recently spun and some knitted items that she has made from the yarns. All the different types of animal, plant and synthetic fibres that can be used to spin into yarn were explained along with the equipment

required to do this. Samples of the animal and plant fibres were passed around so that everyone could feel the different textures. Pat explained from which animal or plant the fibre had come from and there were some surprises in that camel actually felt softer than alpaca! Pat then explained the process from shearing the animals, washing the fleece, dyeing and combing the fleece before spinning can start. Her graphic description of alpaca enjoying the shearing had everyone amused! Pat then showed the spinning wheel and explained all the different parts and what they are called and explained how it works. She gave a demonstration that had everyone's attention and she then invited anyone to have a go. Dorothy Spain accepted the invitation and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of producing some spun yarn that she was given to take home. This was a very interesting, informative talk that was well presented and that everyone appeared to enjoy. Gill Davies



Competition Results

'An item made with yarn.'
Joint 1st. Marie Maloney & Marie Walsh.
Joint 2nd Pat Stazicker & Pam Melling
3rd Gill Brown.

Next Meeting

Monday; 8th July 'Strawberries and cream'. Hopefully a walk weather permitting.
Competition; 'Wild flowers in a jam jar' to be judged by members by distribution of coins for ACWW. The arrangement with most coins (not highest value) wins.

Horwich 10th Birthday Garden Party

Only 4 of our members were able to attend this event, which was a shame as it was a really enjoyable afternoon. The terraced garden was beautiful, the emphasis on low maintenance and quirky; where else would you find Hippos swimming in the lawn? A



gurgling stream was one boundary with a place to sit and relax. There was a large tear drop shaped fish pond and masses of herbaceous flowers. We were equally impressed by the refreshments. The Horwich members had 2 baking competitions; varieties of quiche and cake! After judging we eat the results, supplemented with salad and savouries. I can assure you they have some very talented cooks! It was completed with tea and birthday cake. The whole afternoon was delightful with many visitors from other WI's as well as Horwich. It was a shame it wasn't a bit warmer but there were plenty of blankets and wraps to fend off the chill. Gill

Aspull Amblers

A group of us set off to Entwistle Reservoir recently for a stroll around this lovely Reservoir. We met outside the Strawberry Duck Inn taking the lane which led us to the lake. After negotiating a woodland pathway and steps we found ourselves by lake which was easy going on flat



paths. Entwistle is a lovely Reservoir with stunning views, wooded hillsides with pine trees to the edge of the lake. On the North shore we encountered the striking galvanised steel sculpture of a heron by Dutch artist Marjan Wouda and some cormorants lazily

resting in the sun. Interestingly the Dam at the Western end was built in 1832 and was the first in the U K to exceed 100 feet. We all commented on the location and views and how lucky we are to have such lovely places to explore on our doorstep!. At the end of the walk we made our way back to The Strawberry Duck Inn where we enjoyed a lovely lunch. All in all a Grand Northern day out!! Pat



Come and join us for our next walk that will be in and around the scenic Haigh Woodland Park. Dogs are welcome and we will of course be enjoying some refreshments from the courtyard café after the walk. We will meet on the car park by the pay station at 10:00am on Tuesday 18th June. See you there! Gill Davies

Art Group

May was a quiet month for the art group. After having our first exhibition and a lesson on pastels from Ann Couchman in April we had a very small group for our first meeting. The members decided to work further into the pastel that they had been doing with Ann and the decision certainly paid off as you can see in the photo of cottages set in the landscape. It's surprising how

different each member interpreted the basic picture with different skies, to the final shape of the river and the style of the reeds and grasses.



In our second meeting in May we were still a smallish group as it was a Bank Holiday and members were away or on granny duties. Those of us who were available quickly got down to work, some looking at the class of 'In The Garden' for the September Lancashire Federation show. As you can see we got a range of work done, Bev did a sweet little chic, Ann was painting from life having bought in some gorgeous purple clematis to paint. Ruth started a pastel with a boat in the foreground, a topic she seems drawn to (forgive the pun). Hopefully you will see huge progress on these painting in next month's newsletter, and more about what the other members were doing. In the meantime please pop along to Blackrod Library again. Blackrod Art Group were a tremendous support to our group loaning us stands, giving advice and advertising our exhibition, and from now until 20th July they are holding their main exhibition. Hester

Crown Green Bowling

May saw our bowlers return to the green for the 2019 season and whilst I missed the first day back as I was on holiday and the last day due to half-term grandchildren duties, the usual



chat and laughter accompanied the not forgotten (and for some forgotten) skills. Although also unable to play one of the days, Pat brought along Bonnie, a cross Shih Poo, definitely at six weeks old, our youngest and cutest visitor! Unfortunately the first Tuesday in June was rained off, but, please come and join us - whether just to try it out, or for a couple of hours gentle exercise or even just to watch - all are welcome. Glenda



Cinema Group



The consensus on the Elton John biopic Rocketman was that it was a very honest portrayal of his life and an excellent film. His early life was really sad because he felt unloved by both of his parents and then let down badly by lover and Manager John Reid. The story of his search for love was tragic but fortunately his lyricist Bernie Taupin was a true friend throughout his life, and although they had the occasional tiff they never actually fell out, and maintained their brotherly relationship over the past 50 years. The wild life of drugs, alcohol and sex wasn't glossed over in this film unlike Bohemian Rhapsody, mainly because Elton himself contributed to it and David Furnish, his husband helped with the production. It was sad and depressing in it's portrayal but also hopeful that people can survive the excesses of the rock world and there is life after rehab. It took therapy sessions to allow him to find himself and slowly forgive and like himself. An inspirational story with a happy ending. The music, the flamboyant costumes and the acting especially Taron Egerton as Elton were amazing. Hazelxx

Craft Group

There is no better way to celebrate the onset of summer than wandering along the canal admiring the hedgerows and gathering Elderflowers. Even though it was early in the season we managed to collect plenty which we sorted to



make sure that any foreign flora and fauna was removed but no rinsing as that removes a lot of the pollen which contains the flavour. We then enjoyed tea and cake in the garden (well you can't rush these things), and the whole process was to enjoy summers bounty. Making the cordial is very simple; sugar is dissolved in water and brought to the boil, lemons are added with citric acid, as a preservative, the fresh Elderflowers are added to the boiling water. This is then covered and left for 24 hours to steep. We then switched to pre-prepared batched which was strained through muslin straight into sterilised bottles. Obviously we had to sample the results. Gill

Knitting Together

Knitting Together recommenced on Tuesday 28th May and it will run fortnightly until the end of September. It will be lovely to run the group through the summer because we can sit and knit outside on the patio and admire the view across to Rivington and Winter Hill. Some baby bonnets are being made at present for the charity entry at the County Show in September, so get those needles clicking and lets see how many we can make! I look forward to seeing you and this month's dates are as follows: 11th & 25th June at 2:00pm, Our Lady's. Gill Davies

Lunch Group

Our venue this month was the ever popular Goose and Gander in Little Scotland. This restaurant, formerly Suzanna's and before that Gallagher's, has a lovely ambience, is very well appointed and always good service. Sometimes the wait for food can seem tiresomely long but it is always freshly prepared so the wait is worthwhile. Eight members attended this month's event and I think that we all enjoyed our personal choice of lunch. We stayed to chat for quite a long time in a very relaxed atmosphere and I personally would be happy to make this restaurant a regular venue since I have never been disappointed by the food, service or price. Marie M.

Quilting

I'm off to America soon and as always making quilts to take over. Last time there I helped my granddaughter make a quilt for her Daddy. However she really wanted one with a fluffy backing for him so I've made one with John Deere printed cotton (he's a farmer) backed with Minky which is a lovely soft fabric. However as I find this fabric hard to sew on my machine I've hand tied it. I had a panel with Unicorn motif and using an inexpensive throw as backing I've made Charley another PINK quilt.



Whilst in America it's 4th July and this year Flandreau celebrates its Sesquicentennial so I'm attempting to make a Stars and Stripes themed quilt. Busy, busy but still time to share quilting ideas with my friends. Anyone interested just get in touch and I'll try to give a few tips on starting off.



Hazel brought her granddaughter to visit at Easter and she made an Easter bunny bag in super-fast time (3/4hr) obviously enjoyed it as she has now done some sewing on her own!! Anne C came up with the heart shaped idea which she used with antique fabric pieces. Ann B who has always been a sewer has quickly learned quilting and has even got her daughter sewing. Maybe hope for me to interest my daughter. We still make a wide range of quilted items both Anne C and Pat D have shown me photos of their dogs showing interest whilst they were sewing. Now if I can teach a dog to quilt maybe I'll be on Britain's Got Talent next year. Xx Pat Henderson

Trips and Outings

Monday 17th June at 10.30am. Tour of the newly refurbished Egyptology Collection and the Art Gallery at Bolton Museum on

We are planning a trip to John Rylands in Manchester in September.

Sunday 1st December Grassington Dickensian Festival.

So plenty of trips to look forward to. Hazel and Patxx

NFWI News

'NOT IN MY NAME COMPETITION' Leaflets available. BURSARIES - Information available

Dates for your diary from LFWI

COUNTY SHOW: 'SEWING BOX' entries to be in by Monday 17th June 2019.

STEWARDS WANTED – See information sheet. Closing date: 31st July'19.

'A GNOME IN ANY MEDIUM' - Betty Sanderson Trophy Closing date: Friday 9th August'19.

TICKET APPLICATION for Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th September'19. Advance tickets £4. Admission at door £5. Closing date: Thursday 5th September'19.

PREVIEW EVENING & DINNER - Tuesday 24th September'19 Details available at meetings. Cl. date 5th September'19.

200+ CLUB: Renew your subscription – Fee £10 per member Closing date: Thursday 25th July'19.

SEW A JAPANESE-STYLE BAG – Workshop at Leyland Office Friday 13th September'19 or Saturday 14th September'19. Time: 10.00 - 3.30pm. Cost £20. Closing date 22 Aug'19.

HANDS-ON PRESERVES WORKSHOP Thursday 24th October'19 or Tuesday 29th October'19. @ Brindle Community Centre - 10.00am to 3.30pm. Cost £25 Closing date: Thursday 19th September 2019.

INVITATIONS:
BELMONT WI GIN EVENING: Thursday 13th June @ 7.30 - £5
PARBOLD QUIZ: Saturday 15th June'19 @ 7.30 Cost £8.50
O'HULTON TEA/CAKES: Monday 24th June @ 2.00. £3.50.
LUNCH CLUB: Friday 28th June'19. Venue TBA
L'BRIDGETEA/CAKES: Friday 19th July 2.00-3.30. Cost £3



Birthdays in June

Connie Cockeram 13th & Jean Ingham 14th

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

June
2019



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