

The weather is certainly summery as I write this. Blue skies and sunshine, just what we want for the start of the holiday season. I know many of you have either been on holiday or are planning to go on holiday at the moment so enjoy a lovely break where ever you are going or have been to. Maybe we should have a display of holiday snaps in November to remind ourselves of the fun and sun we have had as we enter winter. Before winter we have our annual Lancashire Federation Craft and Produce Show at Garstang. This is something to be seen, all the WI's from the Lancashire federation competing in various craft, baking and produce classes, if you have never been then try to go this year. In the meantime we need to get our entries in to Helen Sloane by the 2nd August this year. We do not need the actual objects that you are entering until mid-September, but entries close on 9th August and Helen needs to send off our entries before this date. Davida, who collates the entries, has over 2000 entries to deal with in that final week! The show is open to the public on Wednesday 25th September and Thursday 26th September at Best Western Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Club, PR3 1YE. It's always more fun to go to the show if we can see people that we know have entered, seeing the comments that they got from the judges, hoping that they have been placed. If you need to look at the schedule it is on Lancashire Federation WI website and also posted on our own gmail group. Helen also has a copy which she brings along to the meeting, usually on the Federation information table. Have a look while eating your scone, jam, cream and strawberries and plan your entries. Hester

**Pat Ashcroft BEM – See Page 7 in Hotpot. Pat has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Honours List. Congratulations card has been sent from Aspull & Haigh WI**

## Last Meeting

What a night! Gripped by Roman fever, we were desperate to run home for our boots, grab a trowel and join the dig. Time Team look out; Patrick Maloney's talk was every bit as informed, interesting and, yes, exciting. Furthermore, it featured our town and, significantly, Toddington Lane in Haigh and Aspull, the excavation of a reputed Roman road.

Patrick, chairman of the prestigious Wigan Archaeological Society, presented their extensive research to us, all meticulously documented and recorded. Every recent new technology has been used, as well as pen and pad, spade, trowel and sometimes the JCB. What's more, their impressively professional research was authenticated by the Professor of Archaeology at Salford University.

Apparently Wigan was a significant Roman site in the late first and second centuries. It may also possibly, maybe, probably be the site of the Roman fort of Coccium. What a good name! Remains of a massive Roman bath house, possibly the largest in Britain, was discovered and excavated And, yes, the council put a carpark and shopping centre over the site, so we're in good company with Richard III in his own famously lost burial site in a Leicester carpark.

After countless sub-zero winter digs on Toddington Lane, the tireless volunteer archaeologists of WAS have finally found a possible road layer below the 18th century one, and hope to discover definitive Roman evidence there. This inspiring work is not all digging; it's a multi-disciplinary activity and Roman maps and records show the lines and distances involved. They built their roads from the south northwards and there is a road line that goes from Mamucium (Manchester) through Coccium to Bremetannacum (Ribchester) and this line goes along Toddinton Lane. We amateurs would say that's proof, but the archaeologists say that although there's a tiny kink, they think that's still on the road line.

Then (and this is what thrilled me) that line runs from Toddington Lane across to St. David's Church site, then directly down the footpath, the Washpath, which is the definite line of the Salford Hundred, a boundary devised by King Alfred. So, that means the Washpath is possibly, maybe, perhaps (they're a cautious lot, archaeologists) on the line of the Roman road too!

You'll have to imagine my excitement because my fence is at the end of the Washpath, and all these years I might've been walking and riding along a Roman road! And it's strange, and you

may not believe it, but the other morning at 6 am, I was gazing out over the fence at the mist that lay in lilac veils across the field and found my eye drawn to the 'old Roman road'; I'm certain I heard the ringing clash of iron shod sandals on stone...

Thanks again to Patrick. It was an immense pleasure to meet him and to listen to him. I'm sure he inspired more people than me. Rhona

## Competition Results

May Competition Results; 'A piece of historic memorabilia.'  
1st. Pam Melling 2nd Norma Walker 3rd Gill Brown

## Next Meeting

Next Meeting Monday; 12th August 'My Husband's Aunt Eliza'.  
Speaker Gwynth Millard  
Competition; 'Fun loving photo a relative or family group'.

## Trip to RHS Chatsworth



Some of us set off on our Garden Trip to Chatsworth for the RHS show. Chatsworth is a beautiful place, even in the rain and our intrepid ladies weren't going to let the inclement weather dampen our spirits! The tone for the day was set when the Lewis Hamilton of the RHS golf buggy world gave us a riotous ride down to the showground! Hanging on for dear life and lots of giggles!!! There's always a lot to see at an RHS show and we had a lovely time wandering around the retail outlets, trying on various hats, scarves, clothes and sampling the lovely cheeses and food on offer. We came across a very novel upside down umbrella which intrigued us all. We couldn't resist a gin taster before moving onto the Floral Hall where we were met with gorgeous displays of every flower imaginable.

The smells and the colours were inspiring and thoughts turned to plants for our own gardens. Some of us couldn't resist and came away with our own specimens which I'm sure are now growing vigorously! We called in to see a talk by Jonathan Mosley on floral arrangements which was great fun and entertaining. Whilst creating the most beautiful displays he gave us lots of information with lighthearted anecdotes about his gardening life. No WI trip is

complete without plenty of tea drinking and cake eating opportunities and we made sure we took time out to keep the tradition going!

Everyone said they'd enjoyed the day, regardless of the weather, we had a lot of laughs, enjoyed the flowers and the company! Pat

## Egyptology at Bolton Museum

17th June 2019

Like all good visits this started with a welcome from our guide then coffee and a safe place to leave bags and coats! We were then led through the newly reopened exhibition which covers the history of Egypt from the time of early wandering nomads, right up to when Napoleon began seriously researching (and removing) the antiquities which inspired the curiosity of Europeans.



Since then trade routes and conquests spread the Egyptian influence and have made Egypt the source of so many books, plays and films. Without the history of Egypt, we wouldn't have Shakespeare's Cleopatra or "Carry on Cleo"!



For a country that was almost all desert the life-giving Nile was

vitaly important for food, transport and trade with other countries. The value given to the Nile by its people is obvious in the depiction of animals and plants on everyday objects in the home and the importance given by the priests and all-powerful Pharaohs in naming their Gods after them. The making of paper made from the papyrus grown by the sides of the Nile and the use of coloured dyes from plants for inks and paints was an important step forward in the ability to communicate with others. Some examples of hieroglyphs and brightly coloured objects for use and decoration are displayed to great effect. Of course, what fascinates everyone is the Age of the Pharaohs and the artefacts left behind from the Pyramids to exquisite jewellery and funeral goods to mummies.

The final section is more subdued – both in tone and lighting and concentrates on the Egyptian beliefs in Gods and the importance of the afterlife and preparation for it. A short film was shown to us describing some of the ideas and myths that were associated with life after death. Like any display on Egypt there has to be a mummy to see and it doesn't disappoint! Recent research has found that the coffin is thought to be 3250 years old and that the mummy is probably of a malnourished 30-year-old priest.

The exhibition is free and well worth a visit. A lot of thought has gone into refurbishing the artefacts and displaying them in an informative way which tells the story of a people who were so advanced both culturally, politically and artistically - at a time when Britain still had to develop the technology to build Stonehenge! Norma

## Invitations from local WI's

During the past few weeks, one or two of our members have responded to invitations from the following WI's...

On Thursday 13th June we were invited to BELMONT WI to join with them as they celebrated their 600th meeting! A special speaker had been invited to give a talk about Gin (Botanicals) – out of my depth here... but her enthusiasm for the subject with a little humour thrown in made her presentation so interesting. Free samples were distributed and 'party' food was served.

PARBOLD WI – Saturday 15th June – We were invited to participate in their annual quiz (open to the public as well as members) David, my husband and I attended and thoroughly enjoyed the evening - we were paired with two lovely WI members who shared our sense of humour and didn't take the questions too seriously – after all it isn't the winning is it? Supper was served - Pie – peas and dessert - what a good way to spend a Saturday evening!

OVER HULTON 'Tea and Cakes' on Monday 24th June. Gill and I attended and thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Afternoon tea – scones, cakes.. lovely.... It is good to meet up with members from other WI's in the area and as always we came away with lighter wallets and heavier bags, all good fun! Helen

## Aspull Amblers

Come and join us for our next walk that will be in Haigh Woodland Park. Dogs and grandchildren 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 30th July. Gill Davies

## Art Group

News for the Art Club is a little sparse this month as we only met once in June. Holidays rather got in the way, including my extending my own holiday. On the day we met it was a warm sunny day and I think we were in a flowery outdoor mood as you can see from the photos – three painting flowers, a sunset and a garden, the other being a fox set in a woodland glade. I think we were feeling inspired by the setting of Our Lady's, from the room we work in we overlook a large field and views over to Rivington. The buildings are set in gardens full of blooms that sometimes inspire paintings that have been done by members.

There is always lots of chat and support in the group, along with tea, coffee, biscuits (and often cake baked by a member). As the meeting is in the Presbytery we are often joined by Father Kevin at the start of the meeting which is always good fun, as he chats on various topics and often has us in stitches. The art group is very friendly and relaxed and if you want to dabble and try your skills

please come along. Do not worry about bringing anything with you, we have built up quite a store of equipment and paints, just pop in see what we do and have a chat.  
Hester



### Crown Green Bowling

July has seen a welcome improvement in the weather, long may it last! Bowlers continue to meet every Tuesday morning at 10 am at the bowling green. Everyone is welcome, come and try. If you don't possess bowls speak to Mary who can offer the loan of a set.

### Craft Group

I had to postpone craft last month as everyone had other commitments. So we will be using all our rubbish – sorry....” Recycling valuable materials,” to create wind chimes to decorate our gardens, they are also a category in this year's LFWI Craft Show. We will meet Thursday 18th July at 10 am at Woodend Cottage. Here are a few ideas to inspire you. Gill



### Knitting Together

All knitters, crocheters and all crafts using yarn are welcome! We meet for a natter, tea, coffee and biscuits. This month's dates are 9th and 23th July at 2:00pm, at Our Lady's church. Gill Davies

### Lunch Group

Margaret, "Very good company"



Maureen, "We definitely put the world to rights."  
Marlene, "Ate far too much food because it was so tasty and the portions were large. (Well that's my excuse).  
Avril, "Lovely weather, lovely atmosphere, great company, what better way to enjoy lunch."  
Helen, "Thought provoking conversation, a chance to relive old memories. Definitely food for thought."  
Gill, "I am always fascinated by the varied topics of conversation from seasonal activities, psychology to sea sickness and everything in between. Thanks to those conversations we are to visit Ashton Grange Gardens later this month, so thank you ladies for reviving an old WI tradition."

### Library Reading Group

Reading buffs gather at the library on the first Thursday of the month to discuss their latest book and we can guarantee plenty of food for thought, tea or coffee and passionate discussion. Some books keep us locked in debate all morning; others completely outrage us. It's never dull!

Last month we had a visiting local author, Cath Cole. After a long career in nursing and education, as well as looking after a family, she decided it was time to write about 'what went on' and penned her heart-warming and nostalgic debut novel, Home from home. It's about the experiences of a group of student nurses at Bolton Royal in the 1960s – Cath was one of them, so she writes from the heart, a very Northern heart. She explained how she started writing, faced the pitfalls and disappointments, found a publisher and went on to success and the next novel. She also happens to be a WI member... See Amazon Books UK.  
Next month we're taking a trip to Waterstones, Bolton, where they have a café. We're intending to buy a book each and then pass them round the group later – broaden horizons, leap from that comfort zone. The group is held in the library and although most of us are WI members, it is for anyone to join. Why not give it a go?  
Rhona Whiteford

### Trips and Outings

Tuesday 23rd July the annual garden trip to Ashton Grange, Cheshire. £35 (all inclusive).  
We now have the tickets for Beryl at the Octagon in October. Written by Maxine Peake, the story revolves around Beryl, one of the world's greatest unsung sporting heroes, brought to life in the intimate setting of Bolton's Library Theatre.  
Before that in September we have the People's Museum and John Rylands trip to Manchester. Details will be available at the meeting. Situated on Deansgate, John Rylands Library is an architectural gem in Manchester and well worth a visit. Link below  
<https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/>

There's a cafe, of course! And a shop, of course!  
Sunday 1st December Grassington Dickensian Festival. £21  
A quick reminder that payment is needed for the Grassington Christmas trip, for those ladies who haven't paid, at the July meeting, - the festival is set in the beautiful village of Grassington and is sure to set the scene for a lovely pre Christmas day out. As well as the Dickensian theme, there'll be stalls and events with something for everyone to enjoy, whether shopping, Carol singing or just taking in the atmosphere of this Yorks Dales village at it's festive best. Hoping you can join us on what's sure to be a grand day out! Hazel and Pat xx

### NFWI News

BURSARIES - Information available  
'True Comfort comes from Good Posture'  
Free course @ Denman – Monday 5th August 2019.

### Dates for your diary from LFWI

COUNTY SHOW:  
STEWARDS wanted for 4 hrs. (with break) for 1 of 2 days  
Free entry. Closing date 31st July'19.

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

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

WORKSHOP: SEW A JAPANESE-STYLE BAG will be held at Leyland Office on Friday 13th or Saturday 14th September'19.  
Time: 10.00–3.00pm. Cost £20. Cl date: Thursday 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.

3/NIGHTS HOLIDAY TO SCOTLAND for V&A Museum-Dundee  
Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May 2020. Deposit £50 due by the closing date 13th September 2019. Details @ meetings.

NORDIC WALKING TASTER – Wednesday 16th October '19.  
From Avenham Park, Preston. 10.00 – 12.00 and 1.00 – 3.00  
Cost £15 each. Closing date: Thursday 3rd October 2019.

LUNCH WITH JIM WIGHT – Tuesday 1st October 2019 to be held at 'The Fence Gate Inn' Fence, Blackburn. Cost £28.  
Closing date Thursday 5th September'19.

WORKSHOP – Taking better photographs with your mobile Tutor will be Glyn Davies. Venue – Leyland Office on Saturday 5th October 2019. From 10.00am to 3.30pm.  
Cost £20. Closing date Thursday 5th September '19.

A TRADITIONAL LANCASHIRE DAY to be held at Bolton-le-Sands Village Hall, Packet Lane LA5 8DW  
Closing date: Wednesday 30th October 2019.

REMINDER – LADYBRIDGE TEA/CAKES ON Friday 19th July.  
2.00-3.30. Cost £3. Transport available – See Helen.



Birthdays in July

Anne Dickenson 3rd, Ann Butler 4th, Mary Hart 5th  
Joan Ensor 11th, Lesley Price 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

## July

## 2019



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