

With September our minds turn to autumn, the “Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness”, to quote Keats. Damsons, apples and pears are ripe on the trees, blackberries, elderberries and rowan berries glow in the hedgerows. The WI used to be renowned for its jams, jellies and preserves and many, many years ago I bought my first WI booklet “Preservation” published by the National Federation in 1964. My copy was a reprint in 1972 and cost the extortionate sum of 10p and I still use it! Interestingly the rules for presenting preserves for show are still the same. Which brings us to the Regional Federation Produce and Craft Show, which as usual is at Garstang this month. To anyone who has never gone this highlights the skills of WI women throughout our region and is a glorious glow of colour from knitting and crocheting to card making and cake making to painting calling at quilting, sewing, beading and lace making, and not forgetting preserves classes. In the produce section there is floral art, horticulture and a honey section, including a class for an original poem about bees. The show is open on Wednesday 25th September, 10.00am – 9.00pm and Thursday 26th September 10.00am – 5.30pm. I know that a number of members are travelling by minibus to the show, while I’ll be going up by car later in the day as I will be collecting all our entries at the end of the show. We have entries in the art section, sugar craft section and in the craft section – knitted hedgehog, bobbin lace flowers, an autumnal wreath, patchwork playmat, wall hanging, baby hats and photography. As well as all these we have tomatoes and dressed onions entered and two poems about bees written. Although this is not the highest number of entries Aspall and Haigh have ever entered it does show the enterprise and diversity of the talents of our members, please try to go along and look at their entries and offer your support.

Hester

### Last Meeting

Meeting on 12th August 2019. 'My Husband's Aunt Eliza' was the title of the talk given by Gwynth Millard at the August meeting. We were introduced to seven year-old Eliza and a solitary seventeen year old boy, Edward, Percy, Plantaganet, Macloghlin otherwise known as Mac. A loving partnership developed between them which lasted throughout their lives. Mac qualified as a Medical Doctor and became a well respected practitioner. Eliza worked hard as a photographer to make her father's business successful. Although they were very happy together, Eliza was subservient to Mac, having to accept his strong opinions; one being against marriage and having children - shattering Eliza's childhood fantasies of being a 'beautiful bride and loving mother' Despite the fact that her parents were most concerned of her involvement with this person she willingly surrendered any ambitions she may have had to share life with him until his death. I purchased the book 'The Woman who Did' from Gwynth and thought it most enjoyable. She gives the reader a balanced insight of life in the 1800, mixing humour with serious injustices – certainly thought-provoking.

### Competition Results

'Fun or loving photo of a relative or family group.'  
 1st. Pat Stazicker  
 2nd Glenda  
 3rd Norma

### Next Meeting

Next Meeting Monday; 19th October 'Games Evening'.  
 Competition; 'Make a rosette to be used in future competitions'.

### Lowton WI 55th Birthday Meeting

Six of our members were fortunate to join Lowton WI in celebrating their 55th birthday. In typical WI style there was a warm welcome, plentiful refreshments including cakes that were so light they couldn't contain any calories at all! This was followed by an impressive speaker, Hilary Anne Norton, who as an Honours Graduate worked as touring assistant to the costume Director on tour with the Northern Ballet Company. She very quickly had to step up to the top job taking over all responsibility for costumes and shoes. She ran through an average week on tour, it was exhausting just listening to what she had to do. Twin tubs and irons featured greatly, not to mention the vast amount of planning, packing and organising that was involved in moving weekly to different theatres. With a cast of 30+ including Principal stars, guests and a corp de ballet all needing up to 10 pairs of bespoke ballet shoes, in various stages of wear, many dyed to match tights, leotards as well as costumes all needing refreshing daily.



During a performance her main task was dressing the Principal male and female dancers, which included



costume changes throughout the evening, being in the right place at the right time with the correct garments and any extra requirements that the stars required. Some Prima ballet stars, such as Rudolph Nureyev were more difficult to satisfy than others.

In addition to the fascinating talk, Hilary shared her extensive sewing knowledge, explaining how to make a tutu and many of the bespoke consume pieces, including head dresses. There was a plethora of costumes to admire and touch, including Nureyev's costume from Coppelia as well as pictures and photos but the most interesting of all, as far as Jo and I were concerned, was her journal for all the costumes she designed and produced for Nutcracker with sketches, fabric swatches, material estimates and costings. There were even pattern pieces to see how the design was worked.

It was an absolute privilege to listen to such an informed as well as entertaining speaker.

Gill B

### Art Group



August was a very quiet month for the artists, with granny duties and holidays, but a core of members still attended. As usual our meetings were held at Our Lady's Presbytery which means that Father Kevin pops his head round for a chat. These chats are always welcomed, and he frequently has us chuckling at the start of the meeting. Some weeks it's a wonder we get anything done as we update one another about what is going on, and then the shout goes up



“is it time for a coffee?” “Not yet”. Once we get down to business the room goes quiet with concentration. Little conversations about the work and “ohhhh I like that”, or “can I borrow your pencils, pastels”, “has anyone got a” make a pleasant murmur in the background. Occasionally there is an anguished cry as something is not working, or a “Hester, can you come here?”. Best of all though is when someone needs to look at her work from a distance and everyone sneaks a look and there is a chorus of “Oh, you’ve done really well with that”. As September sneaks in we are preparing our entries for the show at Garstang, with members entering 'A Botanical Study in Watercolour', 'Painting, any medium – to the theme', 'Picture using any print technique', an art card to the theme and 'Pencil Drawing of My Garden Shed', a total of 19 entries. Wish us luck.

Hester

### Aspall Amblers



For the August amble we walked through the beautiful gardens and woodland of Haigh Park and managed to cover 3 miles without realizing it! The kitchen garden was open so



it was lovely to stroll through and see the many varieties of vegetables and fruits being grown. The weather was kind to us because although it was cloudy, the rain kept off until we were in the café afterwards.

There will be no walk in September and I will notify via email with a date for the October walk. Any suggestions of places to walk are always welcome!

Gill Davies

### Lunch Group



The Gerrard, Scot Lane was the venue for August Lunch group. Judging from the comments made by members after the meal it is definitely well worth a visit.

“Lovely fish and chips, more than enough for a little one.”

“Good service from Mark and great company. Same again soon, I hope.”

“Well presented food, and plenty of it!”

“Good food. Good company. Perfect!”

“Food is excellent and as usual I ordered more than I should eat!”

“Ate too much as usual, lovely food.”

“Curry was one of the nicest I have ever had. Again good food, good company and Brexit was only mentioned twice.”

“Delicious warm salad which meant I could enjoy the dessert but at least I shared!”

Gill

### Trips and Outings

The Downton Abbey movie is out in cinemas in September. It follows the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family in 1927, when they receive news about the impending arrival of King George V and Queen Mary. We are planning to see it at the Vue Cinema on Monday 23rd September at the Vue Cinema Bolton at around 5pm. We will confirm the time when the details are released by Vue.

Wednesday 18th September is our trip to the People's Museum and then John Rylands Library in Manchester

Saturday 5th October is the Octagon theatre performance of Beryl at the Bolton Library Theatre at 2.30pm. We will have lunch at Cafe Eight just outside Debenhams in the Market Place at 12.30pm. This is the temporary Octagon cafe during the refurbishment and we can walk to the Library Theatre from there.

Wednesday 23rd October is the Tyrers trip to Skipton Market and the Keighley and Worth Steam Railway to Haworth.

On Tuesday 5th November we have arranged a tour of Astley Hall in Chorley which is over 400 years old. We have tea and coffee on arrival at Cafe Ambio in the Coach House at 10.30 followed by a guided tour of the Hall at 11am and then a delicious afternoon tea.

Sunday 1st December is the Tyrers trip to Grassington Dickensian Festival and Christmas Market. Hazel and Pat

WLT Wednesday 11th September. The Railway children.

Parbold WI invitation to COFFEE MORNING in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support Friday 27th September'19. Time: 10am to 12.30pm in Parbold Hall.

### NFWI News

WI SHIP INVITATION. See Flyer at meeting. Day trip on Fred Olsen Liner to Scotland on Sunday 6th October 2019. (No cost details given) See information at meetings

ROYAL Greeting Card – Anyone interested? See information at meetings.

### Dates for your diary from LFWI

CRAFT & PRODUCE SHOW on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th Sept'19. Open to non-members.

FUN QUIZ: Information at September/October Meetings. Closing date: Thursday 24th October'19.

NORDIC WALKING: Wednesday 16th October'19. 10.00-12.00 + 1.00-3.00 @ Avenham Park Preston £15 each. Info: Kathy Gemmell 01772 631707 Closing date: Thursday 3rd October'19.

'HANDS ON PRESERVES' WORKSHOP: Cost £25. Venue: Brindle Community Centre on Thursday 24th Oct'19 or Tuesday 29th October'19. Begin 10.00am-3.30am. Closing date: 19th Sept'19.

LITERARY LUNCH: Thursday 7th November'19 @ Mytton Fold Hotel, Langho, Blackburn BB6 8AB 12.00 for 12.30. Cost £25. Closing date 14th Oct'19

THE 'I' IN OCEAN POLLUTION - Speaker Liz Sperling Leyland Offices on Friday 8th November'19. Begin 6.30 - 8.30. Cost £5. Tea/coffee/biscuits incl. More info. Contact Ruth Grimley: 01772 696455 Closing date: Monday 14th October'19

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP: Jovanka Gregory Sunday 17th November + Tuesday 19th November'19. @ Leyland Office 10.00-3.30 both days. Cost £20 + £20 cost of willow per person to Tutor. Bring packed lunch. Closing date: Monday 21st Oct'19.

KNIFE CRIME: Speaker: Detective Lawrence Dixon GMP. Leyland Offices on Friday 22nd Nov'19. 6.30pm – 8.30pm Cost £5 includes tea/coffee + biscuits. Further info. Contact Ruth Grimley on 01772 696455 Closing date: Monday 21st October'19.

TRADITIONAL LANCASHIRE DAY: Wed. 27 Nov'19. Bolton-le-Sands Village Hall, Packet Lane, LA5 8DW 1.30pm – 4.00pm. Cost £8.00. Cl. date 30th October'19. Queries re event contact Pamela Wade 01995 605982

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

# NEWS

## September 2019



Birthdays in September

Hilda 9th, Marie M 24th, Jo 25th, Pam 28th, Pat S 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.



[www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk](http://www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk)