

Happy New Year everyone. Unbelievably it is now 2020, the start not only of a new year but a new decade. It is also the Centennial year of the Lancashire Federation. If you have internet you will see that Lancashire Federation is selling a range of merchandise to celebrate the centenary, information is also available in Hotpot, the Federation magazine. Back in November on the 23<sup>rd</sup> a number of us gathered at the Co op in Aspull to be presented with a cheque from the community charity fund. It was such a shock to be given over double the amount that we asked for. Our aim in asking for the money was to make our meetings and information more visual for those who find this helpful. This will buy a projector and associated equipment. As we moved into December we prepared for our Christmas party at Hawthorne's. As always we welcomed our guests from our Beacon Group WI's, Ladybridge, Heaton and Bradshaw and Harwood. Sadly, at the last minute our Heaton guests were unable to attend. This year, as last year, entertainment was provided by our very own Singing for Fun who led us in singing a number of seasonal songs, though I think the favourite song was Dancing Queen which ended our party. Many thanks to Marie for sorting the songs and running the Singing for Fun. Also thanks to committee members for organising the raffle and being Mother Christmas for our Secret Santa. Thanks also to Rob and Gill Brown who, yet again, provided us with beautifully printed placemats for everyone.

Hester

### Last Meeting

Our Annual AGM was held in November. We took the opportunity to elect new committee members and vote on the President's position within the group. Prior to this we reminisced about all the groups and activities held during the year. Aspull&Haigh WI holds lots of group activities and trips. How nice it was to remember everything that's taken place.

Thanks to our members, as always, without the participation of our members we wouldn't have such a vibrant and successful group!

We were further told about the Co op funding award which was a great boost so a great thanks to the local Co op for supporting us.

We left feeling that our WI has a lot to offer and that we hope to take our ideas out to the local community in the coming year. Hoping too, that 2020 sees us enjoying our activities and trips in friendship, fun and laughter!!

A lovely fish and chip supper was enjoyed by all and for those not partaking there were cakes and a cuppa!

Pat D

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th February.

"The Side Saddle History" with Esther Turner.

Competition: A Family Photo

### Afternoon Tea with "My Life"

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November Gill B, Jo, Ann Butler, Hester, Jean and I enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea as guests of the charity 'My Life'. We were greeted by well-mannered youngsters, most having disabilities. A very enlightening talk was given by Caroline, a founder member, and we were amazed at the activities taking place at their Standish and Leigh sites. The youngsters who served tables and hosted the event were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh hospitality awards. A well-deserved 10 out of 10 hgjnwas unanimous from all guests, family and friends. We were then entertained with music and singing from their Arts

group.

A very goodtime was had by all and we look forward to seeing Caroline again, in the future to tell us more about this worthy local charity.

Ann Dickinson.

### Trip to Grassington

It's official we love Grassington!



We set off on a frosty sunny morning and enjoyed a lovely drive to Grassington taking in some beautiful scenery.



A short stroll from the coach park took us to our first stop in the village - refreshments, of course!

We managed to seat ourselves in a very welcoming café and enjoyed tea, coffee, cake, sausage sandwiches, bacon or egg. Wonderful start to set us up for the day.

Grassington was beautifully prepared for their Dickensian Christmas Market and Festival. The stone cottages, cobbled streets, festival lights and those in costume all added to a happy and relaxed atmosphere. Apart from lovely items in a range of shops we could enjoy mulled red wine with brandy, flap jacks, homemade soups and pies, mulled cider, mince pies - all sorts of festive fare.

There were many craft stalls in the Community Centre selling quality goods as well as local beer, jams and chutneys. A hot lunch was being served there as well. There were stalls arranged along the streets as well and whilst



browsing we were entertained by a Mummers Play, Christmas choirs, folk singers. A re-enactor in the shops was shouting 'Bah Humbug' but it didn't stop us from buying and enjoying ourselves. Christmas gifts, goodies, decorations were purchased and some eagle eyed needlewomen even found some cheap off cuts of fabric to add to their stash!

The day wound down, and whilst some energetic souls took themselves off for a stroll by the river, others were lured by warm pubs, roaring fires and alcohol. What a lovely way to finish a perfect day.

Thank you so much to Pat and Hazel for organising this outing.

Anne Couchman

### Aspull Amblers

Arrangements for further walks will be discussed and arranged at the January meeting.

Gill Davis

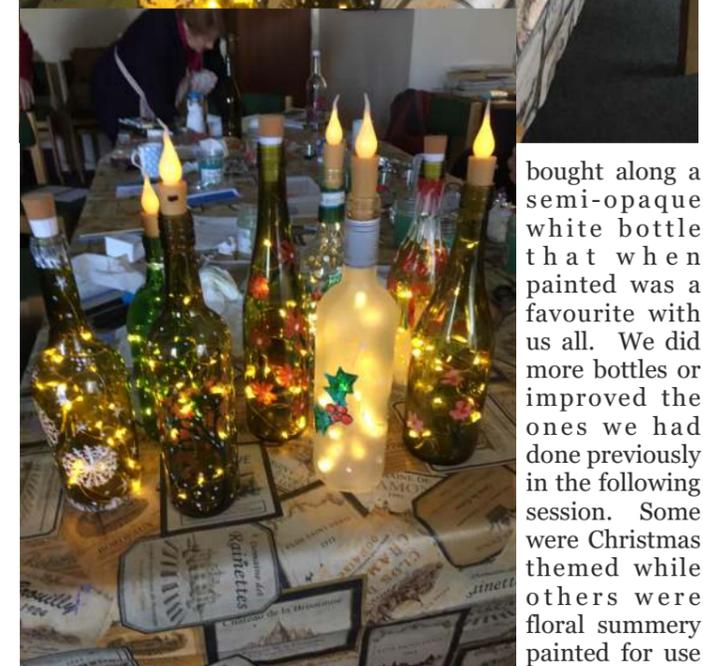
### Art Group

The November and December Art Group was well attended with everyone getting in the Christmas mood.



At the beginning of November we painted or pastelled landscapes, seascapes and snowscapes. The results were wonderful, vibrant skies with reflections in seas or snow. Beve experimented with a deep purple card as the background to a landscape which proved very successful. As Christmas neared we set a date for a

Jacobs Joint celebration to be held in December as our last meeting of the year. Before that Pat showed us a photo of painted wine bottles with lights in them, so we gathered empty wine bottles to be painted. We tried our hand at painting them with glass paints in our first session and Pat



bought along a semi-opaque white bottle that when painted was a favourite with us all. We did more bottles or improved the ones we had done previously in the following session. Some were Christmas themed while others were floral summery painted for use all year round.

As we headed toward a new year we also began to think about holding another art exhibition. So far the suggested venue is at Haigh at the Stables. Fingers crossed we will be advertising our second exhibition in the near future.

Hester

### Lunch Club

FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> November What a welcome we received as we entered Birkacre Garden Centre. Reindeer sang in harmony as they waited for Santa to get into his sleigh. Penguins were singing 'merry-merry.... merry' songs; a polar bear swayed in time to the music and mini seals could be seen hiding within the arctic display. What an exciting place this must be for a child.... More musicians (puppets) in the form of Santa gave the visitors a continual range of barber-shop style music, much appreciated by all. Some



customers actually joined in the spirit by dancing, elegantly of course, around the stalls!! We all enjoyed a delicious lunch in the restaurant. Verdict - a very nice start to the Christmas Season.  
Helen  
January lunch will be arranged at the meeting.



### Christmas Party



The 2019 Christmas Party was held once again at The Hawthorns, Blackrod with everyone having a wonderful time. The Singing for Fun group led the singing of some favourite Christmas songs to finish off the party in traditional style.

### Singing for Fun

In order to prepare for the Christmas party we had a meeting in early October to decide on our carols and Christmas songs. It had been difficult to keep going during summer due to holidays and child minding duties. We agreed on our repertoire and deliberately chose easy songs that didn't need a lot of practice.

We decided that this year we would have everyone join in and we thought that it went quite well. This year 2020 we will not be having Sing for Fun until nearer to Christmas when we will prepare for the Christmas party. When we first started SFF we had as many as twelve people but over the years the numbers have declined until it has become just a few stalwarts just about six. So we will save ourselves for Christmas songs only and start SFF around October.  
Marie.

### Trips and Events

Please join us at the Vue Cinema on the Middlebrook on Monday 20th January to see Little Women. Saoirse Ronan has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for her role as Jo Marsh in the film and there have been glowing reviews of Greta Gerwig's reinterpretation of the book. We are hoping to see a performance at around 4pm but we will confirm the time a few days before when the times are released.

We have booked two games at the Hollywood Bowl on the Reebok for Tuesday 21st January at 10am. It's £6.49 this year and is a great opportunity to get fit after Christmas.

Our popular Games Afternoon will be starting again on Thursday 20th February at Our Lady's meeting room from 2pm until 4pm. We have purchased Rummikub, Scrabble and Boggle and will also have cards and Dominoes available.

Our lovely three day break is booked to Bath the Cotswolds and Stratford for Friday 24th April 2020. Hazel and Patxx

### NFWI News

ANNUAL MEETING 2020: 'The Royal Albert Hall' London on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June '20. To obtain tickets complete application form and send to LFWI Office no later than Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January '20.

### Dates for your diary from LFWI

CENTENARY COUNCIL MEETING: Southport Theatre Wednesday 11 March 2020. Admit: £15. Lunch £8.50. Closing date Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

DENMAN COLLEGE will be offering courses from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020. If interested see information leaflet at January – February and March Meetings.

FEDERATION FUN QUIZ - CONFIRMATION: 3 teams of 4 x members from Aspull & Haigh will be taking part in annual event on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

LFWI – CALENDAR 2021 - (Photographs) Theme: RAILWAY STATIONS (within Lancashire) See information at meetings. Closing date 27<sup>th</sup> January '20

STEADFAST TROPHY: Nomination form. See info. @ January meeting. Nomination to be entered on form and returned to Federation Secretary no later than Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February '20.

CENTENARY POETRY COMPETITION - See information at January meeting. Closing date 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

BRASS BAND CONCERT Centenary Celebrations begin @ Chorley Town Hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from 7.30 - 9.30pm. Cost £7 plus small cost for tea/coffee Closing date has passed but if interested please ring Helen on 01942 832321.

FROM POLICE CONSTABLE to DIVISIONAL COMMANDER  
LUNCH with Karen Lee @ 'Hallmark Hotel' Preston on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Time 12.00 for 12.30. Price £25. Closing date: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

SUGAR CRAFT WORKSHOP with Anne Ludwig @ LFWI Offices on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March '20. 10.00am – 3.30pm. Cost £20 + £5 materials. Closing date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT – ACCRINGTON  
Date 18<sup>th</sup> March '20 @ 10.30am and 1.30pm. Cost £8  
Venue: The Victoria Hotel, Manchester Rd. Accrington. Closing date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

LFWI FORMATION DAY: Opportunity for 1 WI member to switch on LFWI Centenary Illuminated Bench on our Special Anniversary Day – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 See details on flyer. Closing date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

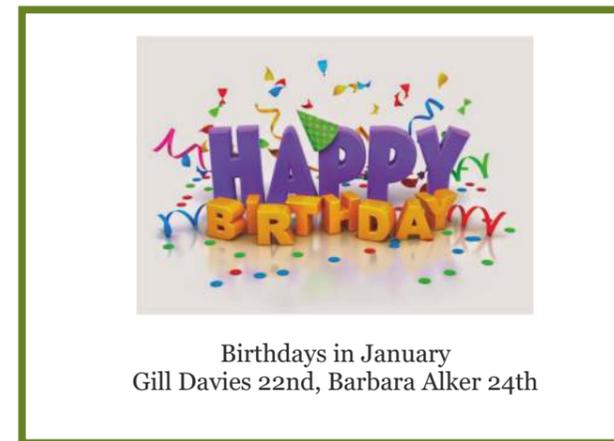
SOFT TOY: 'Good Witch Doll' Tutor: Shirley Thornton  
Dates: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020 @ LFWI Offices. From 10.00am to 3.30pm. Cost £20

SINGING DAY @ Broughton Club Hall, Broughton on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April '20. Time 10 for 10.30am to 3.30pm Cost £10. Closing date: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March '20

'SHOW TIPS'  
LFWI Offices: Tue 21<sup>st</sup> April 10am - 12noon x charge  
BARTON VILLAGE HALL: Tue 5<sup>th</sup> May '20 9.30-3.30pm  
Cost £6 pp. Light lunch will be served. Show Judges will be present at this meeting.  
Closing date: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

ACWW – Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show will be held @ The Midland Hotel, Morecambe on 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 1.30pm - 5.30pm. Price £25. Cl. date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

'SOMETHING SNAPPY' Photography for Press and PR  
Wednesday 22nd or Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 @ LFWI Office 10.00 - 12.30. Cost £10 incl coffee/tea & biscuits



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.

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

# NEWS

## January 2020



www.aspullandhaighwi.org.uk