

Hello, I hope you are all safe from the rain and flooding which is besetting us this autumn. As we head toward winter we have our last full meeting before the New Year. A large proportion of us will be attending the Christmas Party next month, which will hopefully be as successful as last year. Again, it is being held at The Hawthorn in Blackrod and Marie and her Singing for Fun group will be leading us in singing some seasonal favourites. It has, I think, been a successful year again with our membership staying fairly stable in numbers over the last few years. Outings and trips have been organised and well attended and the trip around Astley Hall at the beginning of November was delightful. Along with Lunch Club and other activities we seem to be constantly on the go. Research has proved that having interests and keeping the mind and body active helps to ward off many of the ills of growing older. Our next ordinary meeting will be in January when we will be discussing the WI Resolutions so watch out for your copy of WI Life magazine which will feature the Resolutions we will be discussing. Many of us think of things that we would like to put forward as a resolution but don't go any further with the idea so it might be an idea if a group is formed to discuss ideas and put a resolution forward next year. To lighten the mood of the January meeting when it is cold and dark and no one really wants to leave home there will be a quiz or bingo plus a sale (or auction) of 'Unwanted Christmas Gifts', which we hope will include fun items as well as soaps and talcum powders, after all there is only so much soap you can use in a year – you either get lots or none at all! May I wish you all the best for the Christmas season and the coming year.

Hester

### Last Meeting

As we had an impromptu Games evening in September Mary was very clever to find a replacement speaker at short notice for October. We were pleased to welcome Pauline from Tropic Skincare. The founder was a contestant on the 'Apprentice' and Lord Sugar was so impressed in her products that, although she didn't win the series (she came third) he invested in her company. All the products have a zero carbon footprint, are sustainable and natural, which sits very favourably with our resolutions on climate change. Many of the products can be 'topped up' with refills which reduces single use plastic, again very much within our remit on sustainability. Notwithstanding all the ecological criteria everyone seemed very impressed with the products as there was a long queue to purchase items.

Gill

### Next Meeting

There is no formal meeting in December instead we enjoy a Christmas meal Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Hawthorns with the seasonal raffle. Don't forget your 'Secret Santa' gift which should cost no more than £6, gift wrapped with a tag stating who it is from. We also request a donation to Wigan Hospice.

Next Meeting Monday; 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 tbc.  
No competition this month.

### Trip to Skipton 23rd October

After spending the morning browsing the market stalls and having lunch in Skipton, we were taken by coach to Keighley for, what was for me, the highlight of the day. We travelled along the Worth Valley from Keighley to Oxenhope in a lovely, old fashioned carriage pulled by an



immaculately restored steam engine, passing through beautiful countryside. The several small stations along the line were very pretty and full of nostalgia and there was



even a coal fire in the ticket office. A real journey back in time! And a credit to all the volunteers who have restored and continue to keep open and maintain this railway line for the benefit of locals and visitors alike. Elizabeth



We had an early start for our trip to Skipton, 8.30a.m. in Horwich for coach pickup and arriving soon after 10oclock. Skipton market is, of course, quite famous and it isn't really surprising. Stalls all the way down the main Street had some amazing bargains and of course we couldn't resist the gloves, scarves, hats and socks plus many other items. After lunch we made our way to Keighley where we boarded a train (a real one with a steam engine pulling it!) and travelled slowly to Howarth. Between Keighley and Howarth all the stations were of the pre-war era with sweet stalls selling old fashioned sweets and waiting rooms for Ladies and Gentlemen, separate of course! We boarded the coach again and went on to the village of Howarth where we once again indulged in tea and cakes! It was a very interesting trip and we were blessed with a lovely sunny day. Our thanks must go to Pat and Hazel for organising it. Marie.

### Astley Hall Trip 5th November



We had a fantastic response for our trip to Astley Hall with a large group of our WI ladies making the short journey to Chorley. We started our day with morning coffee, then on to the house where we

met our guide who pointed out the wonderful plaster ceilings and paintings of the many inhabitants over the years. The wooden wall paintings were of particular interest even though little was known about their origin. The history of the Hall itself is full of intrigue, with stories of plotting and religious turmoil. Dating back to Elizabethan times with changes and additions over the centuries, all helped to make a visit to the Hall a fascinating and enjoyable experience. The grade 1 listed building is the jewel in Chorley's crown, and boasts stunning architectural features.

Many interesting tales were told as we wandered around. However, the two most notable occupants of the hall were William Shakespeare and Oliver Cromwell who was



reported to have rested on one of the beds before leading his men to Preston .... (Although we weren't sure whether this was a tall tale!)

After our tour we headed over to Cafe Ambio for our Afternoon Tea which exceeded all expectations and was

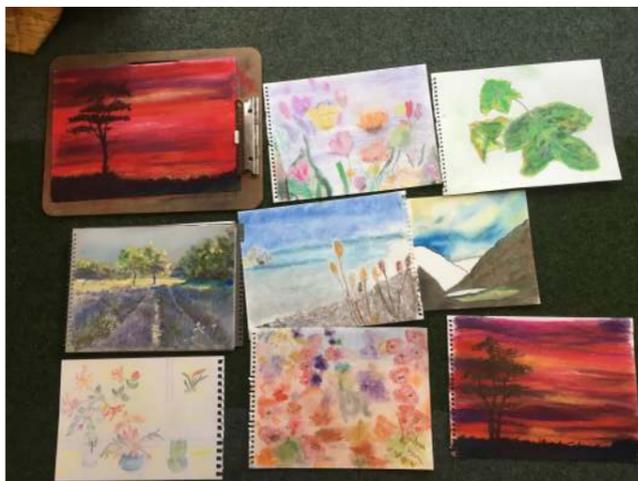


delicious! Cakes, Sandwiches, Scones with cream and jam galore went down a treat! Definitely a Grand Day Out! Pat



## Art Group

In October the group met twice, both times were well attended. On the advice of Anne Couchman, our resident pastel (that's the very grown up version of chalks) artist, we bought a different paper for our work and, wow were members impressed. We now are able to get more depth of colour into our work, and ourselves. Gill and ex WI member Barbara both decided on a deep red sunset picture to try out on the new paper – you could say they were caught red handed as there was as much red on their hands as there was on the paper; but when the paintings were finished



they were very rich with colour. Well done ladies. By the second meeting a number of the group had bought pads of the paper, Canson Mi Tints. Pastel work abounded, Bev however, is proving to have a love of acrylic paints. In this session she repainted a scene that she had already successfully completed, but this time she experimented by painting on purple card and although only part done by the end of the session it was looking really good. In the meantime Pat was quietly sitting next to Anne improving on her pastel techniques. She painted a very impressionistic snow scene and although she said she didn't like it too much we all thought it was gorgeous with deep purples and whites. Someone asked at the end of the session if, as a group, they had improved to which I can say, honestly with hand on heart, yes we have improved tremendously. Yes, we all have that thing where we see only faults in our own paintings, but I think every artists has that, that is why we continue to strive. And if all that sounds very serious, don't you believe it, we are a giggly, chatty, tea and coffee drinking, cake and biscuit scoffing group – with many thanks to Anne who provided us with banana bread again last Monday.

Hester

## Aspull Amblers

As many of you are aware, I have managed to fracture my ankle, which is why there have not been any walks arranged! I'm really sorry about this, particularly as Autumn is such a wonderful time of year for getting out into the countryside. At this moment in time I can't say when I'll be fit enough to walk any distance so Aspull Amblers is suspended until further notice, quite possibly until springtime. Of course, if any other member is interested in organizing the walks in my absence, then please let me know.

Gill Davies

## Lunch Group

Once again we had opted to go to the Gerard Arms which has always had an excellent menu at very good prices. Everyone enjoyed their chosen meal and had a word or two to say about it!

"An excellent meal and good company. What more could anyone want"

"As usual good food and good company"

"Food up to standard. Best sweet potato chips I've ever had"

"I had a children's meal and it was quite sufficient\_lovely"

" Pleasant afternoon. A lovely way to spend a rainy day with good food and company"

"I can concur with all the above comments"

What more can be said!

Marie.

### Christmas Lunch date

at Birkacre Garden Centre, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12.30pm  
(Option to have Christmas Lunch – Cost £19.95 – pre book)

## NFWI News

ANNUAL MEETING 2020:

LIST of RESOLUTIONS received. Presentations and voting to be done @ January 2020 meeting.

## LFWI News

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

INVITATION to 'OPEN MORNINGS'

These will be held at WI Office, Leyland Friday 10<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January'2020. Cl. date 12<sup>th</sup> Dec'19. See information + names list at November meeting.

LFWI – CALENDAR 2021

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

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

## Dates for your diary from LFWI

DESIGN + PRINT CHRISTMAS CARDS with Tilly Dagnall Friday 6<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019. To be held at LFWI Offices from 10.00am – 3.30pm. Cost £20 + £8 cost for pack payable to tutor on the day. Closing Date: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

WORKSHOP: Tutor Glyn Davies.

'TAKING BETTER PHOTOGRAPHS WITH YOUR MOBILE'

Venue: LFWI Offices on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020. From 10.00-3.30pm. Cost £20 plus a small charge for materials and notes – approximately £2. Closing date: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

BRASS BAND CONCERT @ Chorley Town Hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Cost £7. Tea and coffee available during interval at moderate cost. Closing date Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

GAMES AFTERNOON to be held @ Barton Village Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February'20. @ 1.00pm. Cost: £6 each  
Closing date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

SILHOUETTE APPLIQUE WORKSHOP with Lis Binns will be held at WI Office, Leyland on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00-3.30pm. Cost £20  
Closing date: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

'FROM POLICE CONSTABLE to DIVISIONAL COMMANDER'

LUNCH with Karen Lee @ the 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

LUNCH @ Birkacre Garden Centre

– Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November @ 12.30

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

Aspull & Haigh

# NEWS

## November

## 2019



Birthdays in November

Marilyn Gamble 3rd, Carol Close 8th, Pat Dent 13th,  
Norma Walker 14th, Sheila Hinds 21st,  
Sue Fernside 28th, Pat Henderson 29th,  
Rhona Whiteford

Birthdays in December

Marlene 13th, Helen 20th, Anne Sherrington 21st



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)