

Red Rose News

The Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes



Issue 4 2025



WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF RED ROSE NEWS

Welcome to the summer where we can think of strawberries and Pimm's. We hope you all manage to enjoy yourselves and get out into the fresh air. Take care in the heat, drink plenty of water and remember the sunscreen.

It was nice to see all your VE day celebrations, we are a patriotic bunch.

We love getting your news. Please remember we can only accept one submission and one photo per issue. As our team is only small we will only be able to use the first article you send, but feel free to tell us about more than one meeting in your article. For full guidelines please see page 11.

We look forward to hearing what you have been up to over the summer.

The Editorial Team

A Message From Our Chairman

Welcome to this summer edition of Red Rose News. I have just returned from a fabulous holiday in Japan, followed by the Higham Hall weekend, learning how to paint on silk. To say I am shattered is an understatement! Onwards and upwards and now to get on with LFWI jobs and catch up on the washing and ironing!

Don't forget that LFWI will be celebrating their 105th Birthday on 25th September and that I encouraged you to promote your WI by making a post box topper/ bollard cover/ yarn bomb. Please send your photos to RRN and promote the things we do in your local area. We have planned a Celebratory Dinner at Barton Manor Hotel on that evening and details should now be with your WIs. We look forward to your company at a special evening of eating, drinking and entertainment to celebrate. You could also stay overnight in the hotel. Also to celebrate our birthday we are holding an ARCHIVES exhibition at Croston House, more details in the next Secretaries letter. We hold a variety of archives but if you have anything significant, please let us know. There is also the BETTY SANDERSON TROPHY to enter. Deliver your entries to the office and they will be displayed for voting by members who attend our Archive week. The Trophy will be presented at the Dinner.

NFWI will also be celebrating its 110th birthday on 16th September – National WI day. There have been ideas in WI Life for celebrating this momentous occasion and all that we have achieved as a Women's Organisation during all those years. Get Involved and tell WI Life and RRN what you have done. For More Information go onto mywi.org.uk and lancashirewi.org.uk

Your delegate will have attended the virtual NFWI Annual General meeting and cast your votes on the Constitutional Changes and the current Resolution- "Bystanders can be Lifesavers". A report was in WI Life and your delegate should have reported back to inform you of what went on. We now have a follow up meeting to vote to accept the Articles of Association for LFWI, for a delegate from each WI.

I hope you have benefited from the Cluster Groups meetings and your officers have passed on the relevant information. We want to give each cluster a name rather than a number, so if you have any thoughts, please let your President know. The next steps are in the planning stage, for a meeting in September/October and we hope WIs will get together locally to share activities and speakers in the future.

Have a fabulous summer and enjoy promoting the WI in your local area. Remember "you get out of the WI what you put into it".

Best wishes,

Heather Williams



Around the WIs

MEETINGS, BIRTHDAYS & PARTIES...



At their April meeting the **AINSDALE NATTERJACKS** held a fund raiser for the local Ainsdale Community Garden. Their representative, Mrs Anne

Hanley, came along to the May meeting to receive a cheque towards a new winter garden section at the church. She was absolutely delighted, and their committee sent a lovely letter of thanks. The speaker at the meeting was the very talented Jean Finney with her talk on 'The History of Nursery Rhymes'. This was highly entertaining and informative. She was so popular that she is returning next year with a new subject. VE Day was celebrated by decorating the hall and all the members dressed in red, white and blue. Even the yummy cupcakes had VE Day toppers. There was a fun quiz. The meeting finished with a rendition of 'We'll Meet Again' with the president dressed as a land army girl. The June meeting's speaker was from the North West Air Ambulance. There was a slideshow, followed by a video which was very interesting and then members kindly donated to the charity. Some members enjoyed a tour of Liverpool Town Hall and even got to stand on the balcony where many famous people, including our late Queen, have stood.

ANSDELL & FAIRHAVEN WI had a marvellous time during their educational visit to the charming Port Sunlight Village near



Liverpool. Groups were treated to a fascinating walking tour of the village by inhabitants of the village - some of them third generation. The ladies were given a wide range of information about the village created by the philanthropic Lord Lever, who wanted to enhance the living conditions of his workers and provide superior living conditions and excellent standards of education and health.

As well as the more formal facts, fun snippets such as the absence of wheelie bins will stay in hearts and minds. There were plenty of quality cafes for lunch - even in a church - and some ladies visited the Museum and Gallery to marvel at the treasures there. Even the Garden Centre was wonderful with a huge array of plants in superb condition. A day out to remember!



A lovely evening was enjoyed by 50 members of **AUGHTON WI** remembering and joining the nation in celebrating VE Day on the evening of 8th

May. The evening began with a short speech by the President and a remembrance toast. This was followed by cake and drinks with 1940s music playing. At 9.30 the party moved out side where 80 tea lights were lit at the same time as the Beacons were lit across Britain. A rousing rendition of 'We'll Meet Again' was sung to finish off the evening.

BARE & DISTRICT WI has travelled back to the 1940s, celebrating women's innovation on the home front.



A member gave a talk on wartime fashion, explaining how rationing, the introduction of "utility clothing" and make do and mend all shaped fashion during this time. During the accompanying fashion show, models showed original '40s clothes and accessories. Interestingly, they were told that lipstick manufacturing continued throughout the war as way of maintaining women's morale! They also tucked into a buffet of 1940's food cooked to original recipes. On offer were "banana" sandwiches filled with mashed parsnip and banana essence (definitely an acquired taste); chocolate truffles made from



mashed potato and drinking chocolate; a week's ration of cheese; wholemeal and Marmite biscuits and vinegar cake. This reflected the inventiveness of women to create dishes from extremely limited resources. The evening ended with a fun competition to tie a wartime turban.



Buckshaw Village is built on the historic site of the former Royal Ordnance Factory, Chorley, which

played a crucial role during WWII. The factory was staffed by conscripted women, known as "Canary Girls," whose skin turned yellow due to exposure to dangerous chemicals. These women faced significant health risks but made vital contributions to the war effort. Despite their sacrifices, there is no dedicated memorial to honour the "Canary Girls" at the National Memorial Arboretum, unlike other conscripted workers such as the Land Girls. **BUCKSHAW VILLAGE WI** is working to change this by raising awareness and establishing a permanent memorial within Buckshaw Village to commemorate these women. They aim to educate future generations about the challenging and dangerous work undertaken by conscripted women across all ROF sites during WWII. The initiative is about acknowledging the past and ensuring that the contributions of these remarkable women are finally given the recognition they deserve. Buckshaw Village WI invites the WI community to join them in remembering the "Canary Girls" of ROF Chorley. The group intends to honour these women by laying wreaths of yellow poppies on local war memorials on Remembrance Day. This may be something other WIs would like to consider for their local Canary Girls, as there were many other munitions factories in Lancashire in both world wars, or by supporting the Canary Girls campaign (www.canary-girls.com). Your stories and connections are invaluable to this important endeavour. Feel free to contact us via the Buckshaw Village WI website. On VE day members undertook a commemorative walk around Buckshaw Village on the history of ROF Chorley, proudly wearing yellow poppies for the Canary Girls.

BRINDLE WI held their meeting on May Day and it was busy and memorable in more ways than one. Some members had to navigate a road closure in the centre of the village via a long, winding detour to access the Community Hall but managed it eventually. They were greeted at the door by a tub with red, white and blue flowers planted by one of their members. Their speaker was Peter Frankish who explained how he and his team up-cycle picture frames for St Catherine's Hospice then use the newly refurbished frames for donated art work and photographs. They had the opportunity to buy original art work, prints and cards with all proceeds going to the hospice. Peter and his team are all volunteers and any materials required are donated so the hospice benefits greatly. Peter raffled one of the paintings and the lucky winner had her pick of those on show. Members voted in favour of this year's resolution and coincidentally the Community Hall hosted defibrillator training the same week with some of the WI members attending. They are very fortunate to have 7 defibrillators sited in Brindle parish and need the confidence to use one if the need arises. They celebrated VE Day with a glass of fizz and a slice of the ginger and orange cake featured in WI Life.



In anticipation of the proposed 2025 Resolution "Bystanders Can Be Life Savers" **CHIPPING WI** members recognised the value of CPR training and took early action. At their April meeting, they welcomed Martin and Barbara Butters (former Heartstart

Tutor and retired First Responders) along with their trusty CPR mannequin, 'Annie' (who never complains). They walked members through the essentials of spotting a cardiac arrest, calling for help, performing CPR, and locating and using a defibrillator—basically, how to be a superhero without the cape. There was a video, some live demos, Q&As, and the chance for everyone to practice saving Annie's life. It was a fun, hands-on session that left all feeling much more equipped and confident to step in and potentially save a life.





At their May meeting members of **FORTON WI** celebrated the VE Day 80th Anniversary

with flags and bunting, making it red, white and blue all the way. A variety of delicious home made cakes and scones was also offered as a treat to members. Special memories were heard from Margaret C, Frances, Hilda, Pat M, Ros, Margaret R, Margery, Kath and Yvonne before the speaker, Denise Hadley told them about the amazing History of Lytham Hall and the Clifton family.



On a beautiful summer evening, Amanda Forshaw introduced **FRECKLETON WI** to the dark and alarming history of Witchcraft, prevalent in the 15th to 18th centuries with mass trials, torture and hangings in Europe, mainly in the poorer under-populated areas



of southern Germany and France. This coincided with a time of climate change resulting in crop failures, starvation and superstition. In England, those accused of being witches were mainly women, living on the edge of society, who claimed powers of magic and made a living by producing potions to cure illnesses and assist with childbirth. One of the areas in the UK with a history of witchcraft in Lancashire, where twelve individuals from the Pendle Hill area were accused of causing deaths due to alleged witchcraft. They were rounded up and forced to walk to Lancaster Castle for trial. Nine were found guilty and hanged at Gallows Hill in Lancaster. The Witchcraft Act of 1753 abolished the hunting of witches and ended the prosecution of witches in the UK. On a lighter note, they then asked Amanda to judge their competition for a Handmade Witch.



Back in April, **GRINDLETON WI** had a joint meeting with Billington and Langho WI. They listened to engaging author, Neil Hanson, about his life; especially his time managing, then owning the remote Tan Hill Inn, Yorkshire, about which he has written two

humorous books. His interest in history has led him to write a novel on the First World War, 'No Man's Land', and many WI members purchased at least one book! In May, they welcomed Adrian from the 'Little Green Bus' charity, which helps local residents with door-to-door transport in a variety of ways, and Ann presented him with a cheque from the WIs fundraising. As it was the VE Day anniversary, members wore red, white and blue and later attended the service and lighting of the village beacon. The June meeting became a lively social night as the speaker had to cancel, so a Beetle drive and then Bingo was enjoyed with much laughter, followed by lovely homemade cakes and tea.



Once the main business had been conducted at **HUTTON & HOWICK WI's** AGM, members watched a slide presentation of the various



outings and events they had enjoyed during the last year, followed by an interesting quiz on parts of the body! Then, the following day, they had a lovely light afternoon tea at The Arches restaurant to celebrate VE Day. At their June meeting, they enjoyed another visit from dancing teacher, Sue Traynor, who has previously taken them through various ballroom steps, salsa, line dancing, ballet and flamenco. This time, the ladies went from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite to Andrew Lloyd Webber's Bombay Dreams - their performance of Shakalaka Baby was a sight to behold! A real fun evening, with four guests who were happy to join in - just what WI is all about.





LEYLAND WI

ladies enjoyed a wonderful day at the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot. Everyone learnt so much about the history of Prescot, and the connections with

centuries of theatre and Shakespeare. They sat in the timber-framed auditorium, based on the 17th century Globe Theatre and how tickled they were to visit the Sir Ken Dodd Performance Garden! The afternoon ended with a delicious afternoon tea and is highly recommended as an excellent educational and cultural venue to visit.



LITTLE THORNTON WI

have had a great start to their 60th Anniversary year.

They have had several excellent speakers but some have really stood out.

In April, they welcomed town crier Rawden Kerr who entertained them with stories of his time as a traditional town crier - complete with his outfit and bell, of course! They have also had a talk all

about the Beach Wheelchairs in Fleetwood - a very interesting and worthwhile charity. In June, a young man called Kristian came to talk to them about Blackpool Zoo and the conservation work done there - a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon which they can all recommend.



Maura Jackson, the recent speaker at **LONGTON WI**, was used to people getting her name wrong, and the prompt 'it's like Laura with an 'M' usually helped. She spoke about her successes over the past seventeen years as CEO of two charities supporting victims of domestic abuse and homeless young people.

Maura puts her business achievements down to her resilience, organisational skills, honesty, accountability and by being a calculated risk taker. Her business achievements are remarkable, not least because of the difficulties she faced both in early childhood and as a young adult. She has recently, however, found a passion for stand-up comedy, and after playing over 250 gigs is clearly quite good at that as well! Maura ended the talk with an invitation to everyone to think about how many feathers we women have in our individual caps, and what we have gone through to earn them. Members were all encouraged to celebrate the individual feathers that make us who we are.



In April LYTHAM BELLS

welcomed Mel, who introduced us to a variety of different herbal teas

and blends. In this workshop, they were shown how certain varieties can help fight things such as insomnia, digestive issues and low energy. They were introduced to more obscure and less obvious herbs, and it was a fabulous workshop! Fabulous workshop. At their last meeting in June they welcomed Helping Hearts charity who focus on helping the homeless which applies not only to rough sleepers but any individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night time residence and this can include people moving housing for any given reason or people that have been evicted from their own home. This charity includes a food bank, baby bank and a clothes bank. They provide advice, counselling, therapy and financial guidance. Every Thursday they open their doors to the Fylde and Blackpool community for dinner, coffee, tea or just respite for parents while their children are entertained in the play area by a volunteer. They were very pleased to be able to donate much-needed items. They have their own website and facebook page where they promote donation requests.





Eleven members of **MILNROW & DISTRICT WI** spent a gorgeous evening playing golf at a local Pitch and Putt and Driving Range on probably the warmest evening of the year so far. Whilst none of them are in any danger of turning professional in the near future, they all had fun and managed to not lose a single ball

in the rough!! Always good to try something new and different. They finished the evening off with some food in a pub next to the course.

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What a busy couple of months the ladies of **NORDEN WI** have had. In May they celebrated their 26th birthday with two lovely



cakes and a speaker who talked about her walks in various parts of the world. In June, Jackie came to speak to them about ladies fashion through the ages. They all had a good laugh at the strange things women did to 'enhance' their beauty and then they realised that some of today's women do strange things too, think Botox, face rollers, Turkey teeth etc. Their outings group have been busy recently. Several ladies enjoyed a guided tour of the workings of the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, which was very interesting, and some of them will be going back soon to a concert. On a more frivolous outing, a group of members went to participate in axe throwing and archery. It was great fun and if laughter is the best medicine then everyone went home feeling much better. Pleased to say they don't appear to have any potential axe murderers amongst them but Robin Hood might be given a run for his money.

At their May meeting **RIBBY WITH WREA WI** had speaker Paul Heap, a volunteer with Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue. Paul explained that there was no organised rescue team until 1962, following an incident when two brothers lost their lives after getting into difficulties near Chipping. Their sister had managed to get to safety and raised the alarm, but there was no team to go and help them. A group of volunteers agreed to set up a team as a result. Now they continue to save lives in wild and remote places. The volunteers are permanently on call, and whoever is available will attend. They can also call on neighbouring teams. They are funded by donations and grants and members had a collection. In June, members had a fascinating talk from Neil Hendrie, regarding the case of James Hanratty, who was found guilty and executed for murder in 1962. This is one of the most complex legal cases in the UK and has continued to provoke interest 63 years later. Was Hanratty really guilty? Neil brought two assistants to help him present the case for the prosecution and the case for the defence in great detail. After hearing the evidence, members had to decide whether to vote "guilty" or "not guilty", which was very difficult. It was an interesting and very enjoyable evening.

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RIBCHESTER & DISTRICT WI decided to look for something that would help others. One of their members recommended that we look at Hamlin UK,

a small charity set up to repair damage done to young women in Ethiopia during childbirth. As a result of these complications, they are shunned by their communities and endure months, even years, of hardship. They often become social outcasts. But how could they help? Following treatment, a blanket is presented to each girl at the start of their journey back to health and independence. The blanket represents the support and comfort women give each other. That's it - we can make a blanket! Each blanket is made up of knitted squares joined up to form a large blanket. They created a total of ten blankets - a



...AROUND THE WIs

sterling, team effort, of which they are immensely proud. Those that could not knit donated wool and helped with postage to send the blankets to Birmingham, where they were forwarded to Ethiopia. They achieved many of the aims of the WI in one project: socialising; learning new skills.



ROE GREEN WI Wild Swimmers made a splash in Windermere as we entered the Great North Swim on 14th June. Their WI has just reached its first birthday and this time last year

the Wild Swim group started with squeals and yells as the ladies tried their first dips. Over Winter they shivered and shrieked as they became accustomed to the cold water. It was a challenge they trained for as they stayed in the water longer and swam further. It was an amazing experience. They are now looking for their next challenge and are proudly wearing their t-shirts and medals after smashing the swim.

RUFFORD WI

held a crafting evening with a VE theme, making patriotically coloured paper umbrellas, led by their President, Elaine Fielding.



They had nostalgic World War II songs playing in the background, with a display of photographs of Rufford servicemen and women from the war for members to view. Their tea break featured some period cakes, and they discussed WI contributions during the war. They finished with a VE quiz set by long-serving member, Rose Pippard. A great evening!

SIMONSTONE WITH READ WI welcomed a dog to their June meeting! Keith and Christine from Guide Dogs for the Blind gave a wonderful talk, ably assisted by Willow the dog. Keith explained that the organisation gets no funding from the Government and that they breed their own dogs

which, after eight weeks, are placed with Puppy Raisers who are asked to concentrate on toilet training and feeding regimes. After a year with a puppy raiser the dogs go to a training centre to get them used to everyday hazards and cats! Sadly there is a two year waiting list for guide dogs and the COVID pandemic had a terrible impact on the training programme. And of course, not all dogs are successful. The strong message from the night's talk was to look after your eyes. A frightening number of people go blind every year, including a horrifying number of children.

TATHAM FELLS WI had a talk from Edward Sexton of Glencroft who told the story of Clapdale Wool, traceable Yorkshire Dales Wool; Glencroft was set up in Clapham in 1987 by his parents using all British wool and manufacturers with products being sold all over the world. Edward had a dream to market Dalesbred Wool, so in 2022 they launched the Clapdale Wool project, using wool from seven local farms; the wool is from four local breeds – Bluefaced Leicester, Dalesbred, North of England Mule and Texel. Edward showed slides of these sheep, continuing with the processes from shearing on the local farms to the final knitted or woven product, passing round the wool in different stages of manufacture. He showed the difference between worsted spun and woollen spun, saying that Dalesbred wool is woollen spun and used for the woven cloth and blankets which were also passed round.



Five WI groups in Fylde get together annually for the "Marsh Meeting". This year's host was **WARTON WI** who chose a "Teddy Bears' Picnic" theme. Everyone enthusiastically adopted the theme and "every bear that ever there was" gathered to have fun. Every member was accompanied by an ursine friend, some treasured

antiques from their own childhood or even earlier, while younger bears were spirited away for the day from – we hope – acquiescent grandchildren. While enjoying the picnic, featuring marmalade



...AROUND THE WIs

sandwiches, members listened to a talk about teddies, learning that they were arctophiles (Teddy Bear lovers). They were fascinated to hear that Teddy Roosevelt actually visited the NW of England on a family holiday in the 19th century. A teddy-themed quiz followed and finally it was time for music with songs from guest singer, Wendy, dancing and a lot of "gadding about" before the tired little teddy bears were taken home to bed.



The NFWI AGM proved to be an excellent occasion when **WITHNELL FOLD WI** hosted a watch party for the first time. Nineteen

members and two guests from other WIs watched the whole event and the interesting speakers, whilst enjoying an excellent buffet lunch provided by a local café. A perfect way to celebrate being members of the WI – thanks to the organisers.

BLACKPOOL WI members helped to celebrate the 100th birthday of former member Gladys Hall. Gladys was born in Sheffield and served in the Women's Land Army during World War II. She was a member of Blackpool WI for many years until frail health meant she was unable to attend regular meetings. Gladys's wicked sense of humour is missed at meetings but several members still keep in touch with her.



Its been a busy time for **BURNLEY WI** - a street party to celebrate VE Day reminded them how tasty spam and jam butties are. A very successful fundraising stall in Scott Park, which

included a new member. Then they were suddenly stopped in their tracks when their next speaker cancelled. Enter Lynne, a member who is crafty (who knew?) who said she would take the session and show everyone how to make a rag ring. What a great time everyone had and the rings showed off the members' artistic talents using colours and textures, to create something beautiful. Every one was different but reflecting the maker's personality. Creativity on a very hot evening was helped along by a glass of Nosecco a Cornetto (other ice creams are available), lots of laughter and conversation.

Flying Visits...

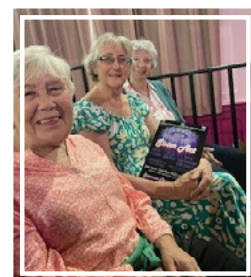


BANKS WI's May meeting was put back a week due to the local elections. This meant that the meeting coincided with the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. They began with a celebratory tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls, mousse and plenty of cake. After tea they had a games night and at 9.30pm they joined in the singing of "I Vow to thee my Country".

BARTON WI's June speaker was Jackie Mafi. She gave a very light-hearted and enlightening talk about the history of sweets and chocolate, Fry's chocolate being the world's first one in 1866! Although boiled sweets were long around before that in the 1820's. Jackie tested their knowledge of advertising straplines and slogans and the evening ended with tea, coffee and delicious cakes.

In May, a newly formed theatre group from **HORWICH WI**, attended a performance of Sister Act the Musical at Walmsley Parish Church Hall. It has been converted into a theatre venue for Walmsley AODS .

The whole show ensemble did the local society proud. Every member of the cast performed well throughout, and the leading characters were exceptional, not only singing, but with admirable stage presence and character interpretation. The colourful set was simple but most effective. When the ladies were asked for feedback after the show, one word summed it up. - "Heavenly".



Flying Visits...



The month of June has traditionally been **LOWTON WI's** Strawberry Tea and this year was no different. Who doesn't love a delicious scone with jam and clotted cream?

The ladies of the WI do, that's for sure. To add a bit of fun to the evening it was time for their ladies to get their thinking caps on for a quiz, the theme being all things Lancashire. Sadly there were no big money prizes, but the winning table got to share a box of celebration chocolates between them.

LUMB-IN-ROSSENDALE WI

enjoyed a lovely night at their VE Day celebration tea party. Three ex-servicemen spoke at their meeting and joined them



for refreshments, sandwiches, homemade scones and cake. They listened and sang along to favourite war time songs. "A happy, warm evening" as one of their members said.

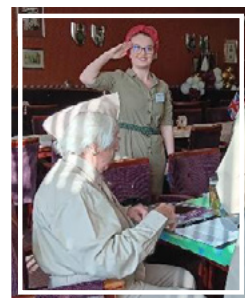


NEWBURGH WI

enjoyed a great afternoon at Newburgh Fair recently. They had their usual cake stall and members excelled. They made a good

amount of money for their funds and entered into the spirit of the fair by walking in the procession, all dressed as TV characters. A great time was had by all. They also celebrated VE Day on 8 May 2025 with afternoon tea in the Sports Club, Newburgh. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon tea provided by Audrey Hines.

In keeping with the theme of the meeting 'VE Night' Members at **RAINHILL WI** were dressed in 1940's style or red white and blue. They even had a visit from two of the Andrews Sisters. Members sang Vera Lynn Songs from the War and took part in a quiz which gave some unexpected facts about the area in WWII. The President read out an account of what it was like to be evacuated, written by one of Rainhill WI founder members who was evacuated to Wales at the start of the war and stayed with a hostess who did not want her or her brother. There were other accounts from members and the President who took part (as a child) in a VE Day street party and showed her photos to members.



ST ANNES ON SEA WI

had a popular trip to Browsholme Hall with an interesting talk about the Hall and beautiful lunch. The weather was sunny and hot and the gardens gorgeous. Every member that went has requested another trip!

This year's Tarleton Village Scarecrow Competition was based on the subject of Movies. **TARLETON WI's** entry was Mary Poppins, or 'Scary Poppins' as she became affectionately known. The Competition is run annually over a weekend and a Scarecrow Trail Map is supplied with residents voting for their favourite scarecrow. Scary Mary didn't win but the ladies had a fun time putting her together. This year's festival raised money for projects within the community including Lancashire Search and Rescue charity and Derian House.



MAKE & CREATE

KUMIHIMO WORKSHOP

The Make and Create team held their most recent workshop on Saturday, June 14th which saw twelve members work on the ancient Japanese craft of Kumihimo under the expert tuition of Maggie Jones. The technique involve using a circular, notched disc and threads to create beautiful braided cords which can be used for a multitude of things.

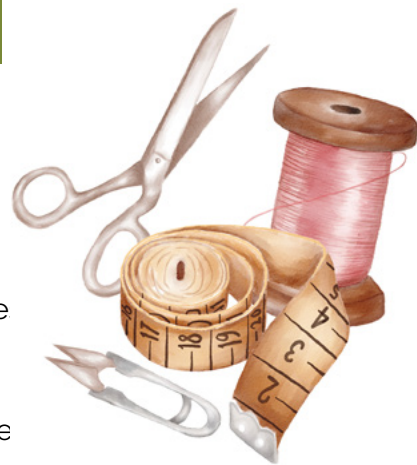
Throughout the day, members worked to complete three items which enable them to progress as they increased in complexity. Work began with a simple corded keyring to practice the technique of weaving eight threads then progressed to a more complex bracelet of twelve threads; the latter produced a very quiet room as everyone concentrated hard on the technique! In the third item, beads were added for another variation and members completed a bookmark using this technique.

All agreed it was a very enjoyable day with lots learned and were pleased to go away with their three completed projects.

For the rest of 2025, the team have three more workshops planned so dates for your diary are

Bramble Bear making on September 6th , Slow stitching on October 9th and Christmas Patchwork on November 8th .

Make & Create Team



LIFESTYLE TEAM

On a beautiful sunny day preparations were in hand for the Garstang Walking Treasure Hunt starting from the Royal Oak pub.

After everyone was booked in from various WIs, 32 ladies started off at 10.30, with the hunt questions on clipboards, ready to commence their attack for clues. Then the organisers relaxed with coffees ready for the steady stream of "hunters" to arrive back with their answers.

They were then rewarded with sandwiches and chips for lunch, provided by the staff at the Royal Oak.

Prizes were then given out to:

- Winners: Planc (Poulton & Lancaster)
- Runners Up: Pops (Pearls of Poulton)

Then the whole procedure was repeated with 35 ladies for the afternoon session.

- Winners: Edgworth & Standish
- Runners Up: Cherestanc

Many thanks to all who attended, (it was lovely seeing you all) and many thanks to Stewart and his staff at the Royal Oak for their excellent sandwiches.

Our next event is a tour of Browsholme Hall, plus lunch, on Tuesday 9 September. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kathy Gemmell

Lifestyle Team Sub-Committee



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR NEWS!



We're always looking for news and events which will be of interest to our readers. To give your submission the best chance of being published, please take a look through the following editorial guidelines:

- Take note of the submission deadline - items for the next newsletter must reach us by **Thursday 4 September**.
- Email to editorial@lfw.org.uk
- Send items as a Microsoft Word document. Please note that PDFs are not suitable for inclusion.
- Include 'Item for Newsletter' as your email subject heading and be sure to include the name of your WI.
- Photos must be sent as a separate attachment.
- Please be aware that items might have to be edited.
- We cannot guarantee to publish every submission and the final decision lies with the Board of Trustees.

FLYING VISITS:

- Short snippets of news.
- Maximum 50 words.
- Photos are optional.

TRIBUTES:

- Maximum 50 words.
- No photos please.

NEWS FROM THE WIs & ORIGINAL ARTICLES:

- Please only submit **one** article per issue.
- If sending information on more than one activity or meeting, please include **all** of the information in a single email attachment.
- Indicative word limit per article - 150 words.
- Photo optional - if submitting a photo, please send **one** clear, relevant image as a separate attachment (please don't embed your photo in your word attachment).
- Please don't send photo collages as we cannot use these.



NEXT ISSUE:

The next issue is due for publication in week commencing **Monday 13 October**. As well as your WI news, we would particularly welcome the following items:

- Recipes.
- A quiz for readers to complete (please provide the answers).
- Articles on your forthcoming activities/plans.
- Review of a book or film that you have recently enjoyed.
- Anything topical that you think other WI members might enjoy reading about.

PEARL LUNCH



On 9 June, more than 100 members from across the Lancashire Federation enjoyed an engaging and amusing talk by Frances Carlaw (AKA 'The Pearl Lady').

This was Frances' second visit and once again she did not disappoint.

After a delicious lunch at Farington Lodge Hotel, Frances' passion for pearls shone through as she took us through the fascinating history of the famous Medici Pearls, from the 16th century to the present day.

Portraits of British and European Kings and Queens showed how the pearls were worn, either as jewellery or as clothing embellishments, through the centuries and many twists and turns of fortune. Apart from the loss of the priceless black pearls, the collection remained intact until Queen Victoria sadly broke it up, presenting her daughters with individual pearls for birthdays and anniversaries.

Today, only four large pear-shaped pearls from the collection remain in the crown jewels – suspended beneath the famous Cullinan diamond in the Imperial State Crown worn by the late Queen Elizabeth II and now King Charles III on major state occasions.

Those present had the opportunity to purchase items from Frances' pearl jewellery collection, the profits from which help to support her charitable work in providing educational opportunities for children in Africa.

As part of her talk, Frances displayed a replica set of the Medici pearls, modelled above by LFWI Chairman, Heather Williams.



MUESLI BARS

INGREDIENTS

- 160g unsalted butter
- 120mls golden syrup
- 125g soft light brown sugar
- 125g rolled oats
- 100g desiccated coconut
- 70g dried apricots, chopped
- 30g dried dates, chopped
- 65g cornflakes
- 65g sunflower seeds
- 30g dried cranberries
- 65g chopped walnuts
- 65g raisins
- 20cm x20cm square tin



METHOD

1. Melt butter, syrup and sugar in a pan
2. Mix all other ingredients together in a bowl.
3. Pour in the butter mixture and stir together well.
4. Press into lined tin and refrigerate over night
5. Can be drizzled with melted chocolate before cutting into squares or bars.

HIGHAM HALL RESIDENTIAL



We had an amazing time at our second Red Rose Residential trip to Higham Hall in Cumbria. The weekend was filled with laughter, friendship,

learning and delicious food – a perfect mix.

Three groups enjoyed silk painting, bead embroidery and exploring some hidden Lakeland gardens (spirits not dampened by a spot or two of rain).

Everyone enjoyed their experience.

Scarlet Corner

It seems a long time ago now, but I hope those of you who managed to get to the AGM enjoyed yourselves. I have to admit that the two speakers that were announced did not appeal to me but as I have done many times with the WI I went along anyway, because you should try new things and you just never know.

And I came away totally inspired by the interview with Emma Bridgewater. Not necessarily because of her work, which is fabulous, but because of her attitude. One of the things that impressed me was she thinks you can have strong morals and still run a business and that being 'woke' is a good thing if it means we are kinder and more tolerant of each other.

What really hit me was she thinks the WI is a timeless organisation. I love the thought of being part of a timeless organisation. She commented on the 'For Home and Country' badge that was used by the WI, which I still have and said that really we should be pleased to serve our family and others. All things I agree with. I used to think that I was very old fashioned with my views and not really mention them, but I am keeping my fingers crossed that I am mistaken about this and everyone has these values.

I know, I know I have said it before, but we need to be kinder to each other. You don't know what is going on in someone else's life.

Emma Gillinder - **TARLETON WI**

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

EDITORIAL TEAM

Pam Aspden - Bretherton & Croston WIs

Emma Gillinder - Tarleton WI

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ISSUE 4

Thursday 4 September

Email: editorial@lfw.org.uk

