

News of Branch and District Activities

N&E Lancs (continued from p2)

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Joyce Thompson, (District Secretary) and matters arising discussed. Correspondence was read by Joyce. Maureen Brown gave the treasurer's report. The fellowship report was presented by Mavis Duerden, and Central Committee report by Christine Leather, (District Representative).



The meeting was pleased to hear that Joy Foster, National W.L. President, has accepted our invitation to conduct the service at the District A.G.M. on Saturday, 12th March 2016 at Bank Street Chapel, Bolton. Rev. Celia Cartwright offered a vote of thanks to Celia Midgley for conducting the service, to the officers, and to the ladies of Padiham W.L. for their hospitality, and to everyone for being there! Brenda Jones closed the meeting with a prayer.

A delicious afternoon tea was served, and the time to chat, catch up and reminisce was enjoyed, before leaving for our journeys home.

Aberdare W.L.

Dylis Evans

This session we have enjoyed a talk on Thomas Hardy, a quiz, and lunch at Aberdare golf Club. Members also brought in objects of special interest and meaning to them. Because new windows were being installed, one meeting was cancelled.

Our own Joy Foster, National Women's League President, has been extremely busy. On the 14th October she delivered S. E. Wales District WL Meeting. On that occasion the ladies of Cefn Coed Branch were the hosts. Our thanks to them. Their welcoming new accommodation, excellent buffet and smiling service created a very happy atmosphere.

On 21st October, Joy, Anne Jones, and Dylis Evans attended the National Women's League Rally at Whalley Abbey in Lancashire. This proved to be a pleasant and productive gathering - obviously a satisfying, pleasing relief to Mary Wightman, the organiser.

In addition to chairing the meeting, Joy took the service in the chapel. The theme of her service was the importance of choosing words carefully, 'to encourage and not to hurt'. She invited us to light and dedicate candles as we wished. The service, candlelight and meaningful rousing hymns created an atmosphere which was an excellent starting point for what was to come

It is always delightful to meet up with friends from other branches, to work together, chat together and laugh together.

See you next October!

Bank Street Chapel, Bolton

Janet Poole

STRAWBERRY TEA

On Wednesday 5th August, at the home of Stella and Alec Bowman, 27 of us from W.L. and Chapel, gathered for 'Stella's Strawberry Tea'. We all had a lovely afternoon, with Stella's Quiz, (which was very testing!), a mega raffle, (prizes kindly donated by John Bowman) and a most delicious tea!

Stella was presented with flowers, as it was her birthday, and, of course, there was a birthday cake too! A huge 'thank you' was given to Alec and Stella for their warm and most generous hospitality. We were delighted to have raised £420 for Unitarian College Manchester, whilst enjoying such a wonderful afternoon.

A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION.....

Bank Street W.L. Branch was formed on 22nd September

1920, and we felt that reaching our 95th anniversary was something to celebrate! On Saturday 19th September more than 50 guests, including W.L. members, friends from Chapel and from North West W.L. Branches joined us for this special occasion.

We were delighted to welcome Joy Foster, National W.L. President, from Aberdare, who conducted a lovely service. In the Hall afterwards, a traditional afternoon tea was served, and a birthday cake was cut by Joy and Janet Poole, the Bank Street W.L. President. Cards of congratulation were read, greetings spoken and photos taken to record the celebration.



A huge 'thank you' to everyone who helped in any way to contribute to such a memorable occasion! Wouldn't it be fantastic to reach our centenary?!

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM: Central Committee have decided to endeavour to put together an album comprising of Past, Present and of course future National Presidents.

The only way this can be done successfully is with the co-operation of all Branches, Districts, and Individual members going into their archives, or indeed their own personal photograph albums, and, hopefully, coming up with some of our Past Presidents either on their own or indeed with a group visit. If a photograph cannot be found taken in their Presidential year then any other photograph of them would be acceptable. You will find a list of all our Past Presidents in the League Annual.

I would be most grateful if photographs could be sent to my home address as printed on the back of the League Letter.

I have taken on this task and thank you all in anticipation
Happy Hunting. **Mary Wightman**

NEWS FROM INDIA

Below is a message from Khasi Hills Unitarians about the Children's Village, forwarded by John Hewerdine, containing very welcome news. Best wishes and thanks to all members who support the India Fund, **Jean Bradley**

"We are so happy to let you know that finally the government financial assistance came to the door of our children this August 2015. It was a relief and we are all happy for this. I am attaching here the sanction order for you to see by yourself. It is a whooping amount of Rs.24,54,507.00 only. This amount was divided into two categories: Recurring (every year) and Non-recurring (once in five years). We have got the money fully sanctioned with us.

"We received this amount after the different government officials came to the CV as a surprised visit many times in the last few months. I was more than happy when I got to hear by myself their comments about our children and the Home. I knew some months back that we are going to get some help but truly speaking I never expect this amount.

"Thank you so much John and Mei Dot and all friends from the Women League who are our well wishers with Big Hearts (and UU group in America which gives financial support). Your supports with the Recreational Hall and other things were such a blessing to us. The Recreational Hall that you gifted the CV is one of the criteria of any Home and we are so thankful that our Home is one of the best despite many other things that we still need to fill up to make it a complete Home. We thank you all for this. It was because of the love you have for us, so strong you stand to help us, our children are so beautiful and growing up to be someone. So small the word 'thank you' but deep down in our hearts it meant so much. Granny Barr must be smiling and I always have a feeling that her spirit is always with us."