



CHAIR'S CHAT

with Lorraine
Reed-Wenman

What can I say... The September issue already and hope it finds you well! We had no idea a few months ago just how disjointed our lives would become, how much things can so easily

change and what a knock-on effect it would have for the entire community. For us at County Office, it has given us the time to communicate more with members directly, for which we have had some really good feedback as a result, some members reporting seeing the newsletter for the first time!

The Board of Trustees has a WhatsApp group, so along with Zoom meetings, we have had an insight into each other's personal lives which we would not normally have the time for. Word of warning though, we see such things as the favourite image on the wall, family photos and prize possessions, all of which can be seen clearly when we are Zooming.

This does raise an issue of security, and I just wanted you to be aware of what others can see in your home when on Zoom, particularly when you are not always with people you know. You are giving access to see those lovely items that the unscrupulous might like to have for themselves so please be aware you need to take care.

The smart way around this is to change the background on your video to a virtual background (tropical beach? outer space? Your own holiday snap?) It works very well and does not identify where you are or what is around you. If you need help to do this, please let us know and one of us will help you.

Despite the office being closed to visitors and meetings, we have been busy again behind the scenes this past month, and have fixed the date for the postponed April 2020 **Annual Council Meeting** as **Wednesday 9th September at 10:00**. (Click link or use Meeting ID: 846 0958 4769; Passcode: 816323.)

The meeting will be held via Zoom, and we will be sending the details out as soon as possible if not already done by the time you read this. We have a maximum of 100 attendees allowed online, and everyone is welcome to attend on a 'first come, first served basis'.

The office itself will remain closed until at least the end of September, when we will review the situation. Rest assured this is not stopping the Federation working as for us it is 'business as usual' whilst we work from home.

We will announce the date of our Centenary Meeting for 2021 shortly and would appreciate the support of all members coming together to make it the best year that the Federation has had in recent times... and of course to raise the profile of us all within our communities.

Stay safe, keep well and hope to see you all soon.

Regards,

Lorraine x

ZOOM WITH MFWI

ZOOM WITH US

Lorraine Reed-Wenman

The Trustees and Federation Representatives have already taken part in a few zoom sessions. Here are the next scheduled chats where any member is welcome to join us.

There is a maximum of 100 attendees at a time though so will all be first come first attending on the times listed.

Please pass onto your members who are happy and able to use Zoom. It's a great opportunity to say hello to your Board of Trustees and ask those burning questions!

Click on the dates for a link direct to the Zoom call.

Wednesday 2 September

19:30-21:30

Meeting ID: 849 5814 8268

Passcode: 5B79Mb

Sunday 20 September

17:00-19:00

Meeting ID: 852 5875 0118

Passcode: 954996

BoT UPDATE



Welcome Julia Lewis

This month, we are delighted to be able to welcome Julia Lewis from West Ealing WI onto the Board of Trustees. We look forward to working with Julia in the coming year.

IN BRIEF

WI BIRTHDAYS



Happy birthday to just one Middlesex Institute celebrating its birthday this month

West Ealing 27 September 2011

200 CLUB

JUNE 2020 WINNERS

Due to the timing of our last newsletter, we announced the July winners, and skipped the June winners. Congratulations to the following winners from our **June** draw!

1st prize - £35

Antje Howarth, Greenford

2nd prize - £20

Kathy Allen, Clay Hill

3rd prize - £15

Yvonne Smith, Hillingdon

NFWI RAFFLE

Final call for chances to win!

A reminder that the NFWI raffle is still open. Tickets are £1 each and the first prize is £10,000 cash.

60% of profits go to Federations, so by buying a ticket, you'll be supporting Middlesex.

Don't let lockdown stop you from buying a ticket—some of our members have bought extra tickets (paid via bank transfer) which I have dropped off on my walks around the neighbourhood.

The closing date is 25 September, with the draw on 9 October—get in now!

Emma Watson



GET IN TOUCH

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Due to the coronavirus situation, the MFWI office is currently closed. The best way to get in touch with us is email.

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MIDDLESEX NEWS NEEDS YOU!

Please send articles (maximum 150 words please) and photos to newsletter@mfwl.org.uk in a Word-compatible format before the end of the month prior. Please note that articles received after this date will unlikely be included due to production deadlines.

Printed copies?

The cost of the printed newsletter for 2020 is 82p per copy. Every WI is sent an email version to pass onto their members at no charge.

Whilst the MFWI office continues to be closed, printed copies of the Middlesex News may be delayed, but are being sent out to Secretaries who have already received the back copies. In future, all copies will be sent directly to members with email addresses as well as being sent to Secretaries for their own distribution where appropriate.

The newsletter is also available, as always, on the MFWI website. You are free to print and distribute copies to your members/community as you wish.

AROUND THE WIS

SUNBURY VILLAGE

Nikky Cussen

At Sunbury Village WI, like most WIs' across MFWI, we've enjoyed regular meetings on Zoom. Bingo, a home scavenger hunt, a quiz night, and Craft and Book Clubs.

Trouble is, with 60 members, making sure everyone feels included & part of the WI community hasn't been easy.



I was worried not everyone could or would want to 'Zoom' for meetings. So with this in mind, I hatched a plan... and 'SVWI meeting in a bag' was born. Supplies and goodies purchased, I then enlisted the help of our Secretary, Caroline to put the goodie bags together (socially distanced of course!).

Each bag included a letter from myself & SV Committee, instructions for the next meeting – *Cocktails & Canapes*, plus a selection of goodies, chocolate, biscuits, a packet cappuccino, herbal tea,

crosswords & pen, beauty product & crocheted flower.

The idea being if you didn't come to the online meeting you still had all the makings of the WI meeting and could enjoy a little treat at home. It was like a little WI hug in a bag. Each bag was then hand delivered to members by the fabulous Sunbury Village Committee and we all enjoyed catching up with WI friends on doorsteps. Such a great idea that made each SVWI member feel included. *Give it a try at your WI?*



FIELD DAMES

Judyth Simpson

It's not often that we report the birth of a new baby to a WI member, but Enfield Field Dames WI are absolutely delighted to welcome a new little Field Damette! Our lovely member Susan gave birth to Amelia on Mothering Sunday.

We are all queuing for a cuddle, but who thought we'd have to wait this long?

Congratulations, Susan!

AROUND THE WIS

DE BEAUVOIR

Sara Lawrence

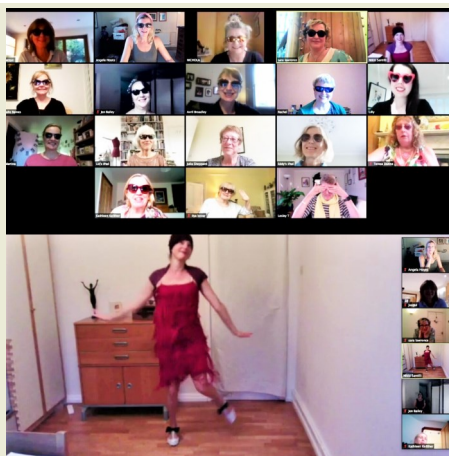
Following our initial grappling with the wonderful world of Zoom, we have been lucky enough to have continued our planned programme for the year in an online form.

We held a fiendishly thought-provoking Quiz Night with our established Quiz Mistresses, the 'Brainy Birds' in May, alongside a lockdown show and tell section.

For our June meeting, textile artist Rosina Godwin from Adventures in Knitting joined us on Zoom to talk about her creative journey.

She uses knitted objects, fabric and textiles together with plaster of paris and terracotta to create sculptures and artwork, in which she subverts the nurturing associations of textiles in an exploration of gender and feminist issues.

This was an inspiring meeting, with filmed demonstrations of working with the materials and we hope to invite Rosina back next year for a practical session.



In July we had a hugely enjoyable and energetic meeting leaning how to Charleston from the comfort of our living rooms. Nikki Santilli, who runs Hot Jazz Rag in London was a fabulous teacher, we all learnt a whole routine during the workshop and were treated to a fantastic demonstration of the routine from Nikki at the end of our meeting.



Alongside our monthly meetings our book group has continued to meet on Zoom. And we continued to make and deliver scrubs, laundry bags and headbands for the front line workers in the NHS and the London Ambulance Service. To date we have delivered 430 sets of scrubs and 536 laundry bags from over 100 volunteers ...what an amazing team effort!

Our lovely member Joan was featured on billboards in Miami, Auckland, London and Melbourne as part of the #sendinglove campaign, a new global initiative to promote messages of love that unite communities all over the world during the fight against the effects of Covid-19. The campaign is being run by the *World Out Of Home* organisation.



And alongside our Foraging meeting in August we are delivering a goody bag to all our members which includes a pot of jam, tea, biscuits, a quiz, a hand made fabric face mask and a scented tea light...

We may not be meeting in person just yet but we can all share a cup of tea and a bit of pampering.



AROUND THE WIS

STANWELL

Dianne Butler

Another 'Covid-19 month' has passed and Stanwell members are keeping in touch with each other.

Committee members phone our members for a weekly chat. Our committee is working hard looking to the future and how we can have monthly meet ups at the village hall, taking into account all Covid regulations. These are difficult times and when we are able, plans will be set in motion for this.

A number of our outings—a trip to see Strictly costumes and another trip to Silent Pool Distillers of Gin, to name just



two—have been postponed until next year, so we have loads to look forward to.

The Stanwell Village Fair did not take place this year, but we are preparing for next year and have asked our members if they would like a change from knitting scarves and squares and knit little teddies which will be used as prizes on our stalls.

A number of members have been meeting up on the Village Green every Wednesday to have a good catch up and take part in a small raffle. They bring their own chairs and so far it hasn't rained.



HAYES TOWN

Gill Wildman

On a sunny July day, our second meeting since lockdown, brought 17 members plus one dog, and a new lady wanting to join, (making an increase of eight ladies on June's meeting) to our meet up in the local park, under our favourite tree.



We celebrated Marion Batchelor's birthday with Linda Lawrence doing the honours, keeping the volcanic flame alight while we sang *Happy Birthday*!

It was really nice to see old faces we hadn't seen since February, and hopefully the August meeting will bring our even more members, as we continue to make the most of our summer weather.



Wendy Capehorn, our treasurer, is raising funds for Diabetes UK Step Challenge and is really challenging herself by doing a 1.7 million steps in three months. To date she has earned 250,000 and 500,000 step badges and is on track to achieve her goal. All members of HTWI admire her effort, wish her well and know she will complete the challenge.

MIDDLESEX UPDATES

DENMAN MEMORIES

Angela Chessman,
Denman Ambassador

Like most of you, I was so sorry to hear the news that Denman would be closing.

It has been an inspiration for so many members and non-members over the years, and it's just unbelievable that it won't be there in the future.

I can only imagine the gratitude and pride of the wonderful members who worked so hard to make it happen all those years ago and we can only thank them for their vision that gave such enjoyment to so many people for over seventy years.

When I joined the Board of Trustees a few years ago, I was asked to take on the role of Denman Ambassador. I had no idea what the role would involve, but I was really excited to have a go!

One of my 'jobs' was to visit different WIs and introduce members to what Denman had to offer.

I found that several members were 'old hands' and had been to Denman several times, whilst others had never been; but without fail everyone was interested in the history of the college and eager to find out about the different courses available.

I think one of the things that made Denman stand out was the variety of courses available. It's a cliché, but there really was something for everyone, all provided within a safe and welcoming environment. Once visited, no-one could wait to visit again.

DENMAN AT HOME

Denman is continuing to offer its Zoom courses—have you tried one yet? More are becoming available and what excellent value they offer! At £5 a time, why not try out some cooking, craft or listen to a speaker on history or culture?

Coming up, Denman is offering eco dyeing, qi gong, 'faux' calligraphy, photography, a chill out stretching session, and lots of talks on subjects from history to coastal resorts to celebrity intrigue!

All courses are listed [here](#) on the Denman website.



Angela Chessman (second from left) with fellow Stanwell members Jill Treeves, Dianne Butler and Mary Jeffery in the Middlesex room on a day visit to Denman as part of Stanwell's centenary celebrations in 2019.

As I got to know more about the 'running' of Denman, I was asked if I would like to become a Denman Host.

This involved staying at the college, usually for three or four nights in a row, looking after the guests and generally helping out with administration and other tasks. The Host would also give guests a tour of the buildings and grounds; this gave me the opportunity to find out more about the history of Denman and the beautiful gardens. It really is a fascinating place.

Whilst it might sound like a bit of a holiday, there was always something to keep me busy while hosting.

I've lost count of the times that students locked themselves out of their rooms or forgot some vital ingredient or piece of equipment! And then there was the time the night porter woke me up in the middle of the night as a member had fallen out of bed and couldn't get up, or the night when a guest (not a WI member!) decided a midnight stroll in the gardens (with a bottle of wine) would be fun. Unfortunately she fell asleep on the grass, another guest saw her in her white nightdress and thought she was a swan! (Well, I suppose you need to relax after the hard work during the day...)

That time in the evening, when courses had finished for the day and members could relax and get to know each other,

was one of the highlights of a stay at Denman. Many enduring friendships have been made from all over the UK. How great it was to spend time with people who had the same interests as you.

(I will always remember our Federation visit and the music quiz – a great evening).

One 'interesting' thing about hosting was that the Host was asked to stay up until the last guest went to bed. It's been a while since I was the last to leave a bar, but it had to be done!

I will always be grateful that I had the chance to visit Denman, as guest, Ambassador and Host.

As well as the guests, I met the wonderful staff who worked so hard to make Denman the welcoming place it was and I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

I hope that there will be some way of keeping the Denman spirit alive—perhaps the Denman at home courses will continue so that we can continue to enjoy the expertise of the many excellent tutors.

I am so sorry you are going, Denman, I will always be grateful for the enjoyment that you gave to so many. You really have been the jewel in the WI's crown.