



CHAIR'S CHAT

with Lorraine
Reed-Wenman

Hi everyone

It's been wonderful that we have had some bright weather to keep us cheerful – hope you have been enjoying it, even if only a little bit.

Sadly, just as WIs were beginning to plan getting back

to having face to face meetings, it seems we are in another phase of our pandemic lives. Although the ever changing of rules is confusing, the one thing that is currently certain is that there should be no in-person WI meetings. The WI is mentioned in the government guidelines, and meetings should not take place, even in a COVID-19 secure community facility. Please do continue to check the guidelines before arranging anything and bear in mind that you may negate the WI insurance if you hold meetings when you are not supposed to.

Online meetings are part of life now for those who are able to access the internet and I have heard that you can access a Zoom meeting by dialling in using a landline. Not something I have experienced but it may be worth you investigating to give all your members a chance to join in anything that you have arranged. You are all doing a sterling job and I encourage you to keep up the good work as the Autumn turns into a colder affair and meeting in parks, in the

allowed numbers, becomes less viable due to the weather. Members, friends, family, local community have now gone through the best part of six months of upheaval— confinement in some cases—leading to loneliness and isolation. Keeping in touch is a major benefit to our mental health.

Has anyone been enjoying Denman At Home online courses? I love them and have found that crafting/cooking along is not practical for me, but making notes during the session is perfect. I follow the demonstration and make sense of the instructions sent prior to the event, making it easier and more relaxing to complete at a later time. The talks are informative too—see page 6. Speaking of online talks, there are many more to be accessed via the *WI Wanderers* group for those on Facebook. It's a national group with many events open to all from around the country; take a look and see if you fancy anything.

Have you seen the NFWI newsletter that has been re-launched? It is nice to see something being sent out again from National. If you wish to subscribe to receive it, visit www.thewi.org.uk/media-centre... and tell your friends too!

How has your seasonal garden/foraging of produce been? I have recently made rhubarb dessert courtesy of my Dad's garden and gathered apples and blackberries to make a pie filling from the local hedges. What have you been making with yours? Must go now and retrieve some rosemary from the garden for my roast potatoes now.

Stay safe and keep well

regards,

Lorraine x

ZOOM WITH MFWI

ZOOM WITH US

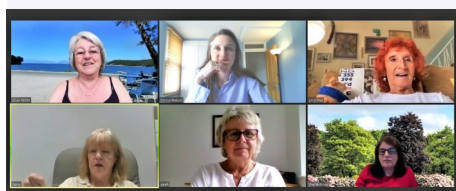
Lorraine Reed-Wenman

Join Trustees and Federation Representatives on Zoom for an informal chat. Click on the date for a link direct to the Zoom call.

Sunday 20 September

17:00-19:00

ID 852 5875 0118; Passcode 954996



VIRTUAL COW BYRE

VIRTUAL COW BYRE

Emma Watson

We were sad to have to skip our annual craft exhibition at the Cow Byre this summer, so we're dedicating a double spread in the November *Middlesex News* to all the crafts we've been creating this year.

Please send in photos of all your crafty creations (especially ones we've not published previously) with a few notes about how you created them. The more weird and wonderful... always the better!

We look forward to showing off our handiwork next month. (And thank you to Yve McBride for this sterling idea!)



IN BRIEF

WI BIRTHDAYS



October is a huge month for WI birthdays in Middlesex Federation.

We want to know how your WI is celebrating! How are you celebrating in 2020? Please share with us.

HA	01 October 2012	Bedfont Belles	10 October 2014
Stow Roses	02 October 2013	Shoreditch Sisters	11 October 2007
Ashford Evening	03 October 1984	Hampton	11 October 2011
The Alexandra	05 October 2010	West Hampstead	13 October 2011
Stone Rangers	08 October 2014	West Drayton	14 October 1919
Greenecliffe	09 October 1956	Halliford	16 October 1922
Hanwell	09 October 2013	Pinner	16 October 1968
		Laleham	22 October 1935
		N1	24 October 2006
		Manor Farm	27 October 1972
		Twickenham	27 October 1988

200+ CLUB

AUGUST 2020 WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our August 200+ Club draw!

1st prize - £35

Kathleen Norris, Sunbury Village

2nd prize - £20

Frances Hawkins, Southbourne

3rd prize - £15

Bebe Bond, Sunbury on Thames



GET IN TOUCH

COUNTY OFFICE

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Email: secretary@mfw.org.uk

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@mfw.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.

In addition, 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

ASHFORD

Helen Beecham

As many aspects of our lives are changing around us with people returning to work, shops, pubs and restaurants reopening, our WI activities are also expanding.

Mary suggested that while we're having such lovely weather, meeting (at a distance, of course) in the park would give us an opportunity to see each other and indulge in what we do best; natter. This has proved very popular and by the third week we had 24 ladies arrive with chairs, flasks and broad smiles to sit in the shade. We have been approached by several ladies who once they got talking said they were interested in joining us.

Deborah has continued to entertain us with her wonderful newsletters. Her quizzes includes Identify the Phobia, Colours, Anagrams and Trivia. We should all emerge from this pandemic with brain power intact! She has passed on local news and kept us up to date with what's happening for those who are still not venturing out.



News from members has been very welcome and we have got to know more about some of our ladies than we might otherwise have done. Her Lockdown Logic always brings a laugh as do the Bad Jokes of the Day. I loved the: 'I am done with my 90-day trial of 2020. How do I cancel my membership?'

As well as the welcome email of the latest newsletter, technology has allowed us to meet up in the enjoyable chaos of weekly coffee mornings hosted by Prue. Our August meeting had been planned with an Olympic theme and undaunted, the committee rethought it to work socially distanced.

Members who had a large enough garden and internet access outside offered to act as hosts and local members arranged to form small groups. 'Bring your own refreshments' ensured safety and simplicity and a great afternoon was enjoyed with quizzes, challenges and plenty of fun and laughter. Thunder rolled and lightning flashed but luckily it was all just atmospherics!

Lesley has shared her wonderful craft skills and produced card making kits. A small group has met weekly in Cathy's garden to make cards and I suspect they might have a bit of a natter whilst they work.



Lesley had the brilliant idea of producing card kits for those looking after grandchildren. They are beautiful and have been very successful with girls and boys. They also made the VJ Day labels. Evelyn has also been sharing her craft skills with her online quilting class.

Ashford War Memorial has looked beautiful and enhanced Ashford town centre through VE Day, the exceptional hot weather of this summer (which necessitated some replanting to maintain the standard) and VJ Day. The ladies of the watering and maintenance team must be congratulated.

Karen has been keeping in touch with members who have had health problems and helping to cheer them up.

A pandemic is not enough to keep the spirit of the WI down.



AROUND THE WIS

CLAY HILL

Lynn Brana

How sad it has been not to be able to meet since March, so we have found ways of keeping in touch. Not all members are on email, so when we send anything out some are hand delivered by members and some are sent by post. We have had monthly newsletters and weekly weekend quizzes - sent out on Fridays with answers on Monday.

Our secretary rings everyone on their birthday and we have had two or three Zoom meetings, but not many members are linked up to this. We planned a get-together in a local park in August, but picked the heatwave week so had to cancel as not much shade and, at last minute, a fear of thunderstorms. We will have to think again about that! We are resigning ourselves to the fact that it is unlikely that we will meet this year - both because of NFWI guidance and church guidance on the hall we use. So 2020 has not been the year we were hoping for.

However, members have been busy knitting, baking, crafting and sowing seeds that were given out in February. We are looking forward to and waiting for better times.



One of our Zoom meetings



Some colourful 'Trauma teddies' knitted by members



Dolls dressed by Alma



*Wild seeds grown by Margaret;
Weetabix cake made by Heather*



Dishcloths crocheted by Christine



Some knitting by Ethel



Squares knitted by Lynn and sewn together by Jan



Adrienne's Strawberry Afternoon Tea when our regular one was cancelled

AROUND THE WIS

LALEHAM

Chris Walker

A lively WhatsApp group has been keeping members entertained during lockdown and members have been supported throughout with phone calls, emails, shopping support and so on.

The Committee is now looking at the logistics of holding a branch meeting to celebrate our 85th birthday - lots of planning and risk assessments will be required but we're hopeful something can be arranged. Watch this space!

Here's the Committee members attending a meeting in President Helen Hurst's garden.



SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

Gerry Attias

During this pandemic Sunbury on Thames WI have made every effort to maintain contact with all our members. We started with Zoom meetings for our committee. Then WhatsApp with our WI and Reading Groups.

The WhatsApp group is still going strong with members swapping recipes, gardening tips, photos and conversations regarding current affairs.

We eventually managed to get our members to meet on Zoom. We started off with a great quiz. Then a member gave a talk on being a shepherdess. Margaret Denham has been a shepherdess for approximately 35 years. Margaret carries out her shepherding for the flock at the King George VI Reservoir in Stanwell, and helps out at the Queen Mary Reservoir in Ashford. To make inspection of the integrity of the reservoir easier, Thames Water maintains a commercial flock of sheep to the reservoir banks to keep the grass on



the banks close-cropped. This will make it easy to spot any leaks.

As you can see from the photos, Margaret is definitely 'hands on'. The busiest time for Margaret is lambing. Margaret managed to get some members from Halliford WI (Margaret's primary WI) to help out. When the ewes have triplets they have to try and get a ewe who only has one lamb to adopt a triplet or they have to be bottle feed them. Not bad for a shepherdess who is 76 years young.



Alongside our monthly meetings on Zoom, we have managed to get 22 of our members to meet at Cedar Park in Lower Sunbury. It was great seeing everyone after such a long time and have a catch up. Our reading groups are meeting on Zoom and in members' gardens.

We try our hardest to keep connected with all our members and those who cannot meet virtually, our committee keeps in touch by phoning these members regularly, and MFWI and NFWI updates and the Middlesex News are sent to them.

MIDDLESEX UPDATES

MFWI ACM 2020

Lorraine Reed-Wenman

MFWI's first online Annual Council Meeting will take place on 9 September 2020 and will be a wholly virtual meeting in compliance with the guidelines issued by NFWI in order to meet our constitutional requirements and statutory duty for an Annual Meeting.

Covid-19 has given us many challenges over the past few months and holding a legally required meeting is just one of them. Anyone not able to attend will be able to get information from their WI Secretary as Standing Orders, Minutes of the previous meeting, Financial accounts were sent to Secretaries back in March 2020.



Memories of the 2019 ACM in Ruislip.

DENMAN AT HOME

Murder sex and mayhem ecclesiastical history, history of London, city of London and walking the river Thames, needle felting, Nuno felting, cobweb scarves, collage picture felting, eco dyeing, felt jewellery and stained glass felt, Qigong, beneath the city streets of London, suffragettes, suffragists and votes for women, Eva Braun, three women one man (a mystery talk!), etymology, faux calligraphy, modern Calligraphy... Our BoT member Jules Hall has been busy enjoying all these courses via Denman at home! Have you? At £5 a session what is there to lose?

Zooming means I can spare an hour or two for me time without anything taking half a day including travel... And it got Alan enthused about cooking!

- Lorraine

All courses are listed [here](#) on the Denman website. Here are a few highlights of upcoming sessions

Cook-Along with Alison - Popular Bakes Monday, 21 Sept 1:00pm
John's Talk on Spas and Pleasure Resorts Monday, 21 Sept 8:00pm
Cook-Along with Alex - Lentil Moussaka..... Thursday, 24 Sept 6:00pm
Seasonal Preserves - La Giardiniera and Chili Jam Tuesday, 29 Sep 4:00pm
Gentle Mindful Yoga with Elaine - 4 Part course Thursday, 01 Oct 11:30am
History and Techniques of Papercutting Thursday, 01 Oct 4:00pm
History and Highlights of Kew Gardens Thursday, 01 Oct 8:00pm
London – Statues, Memorials, Banksy and Graffiti Wednesday, 07 Oct 8:00pm
Patricia's Talk on St. Paul's Cathedral Thursday, 08 Oct 8:00pm
Needle Felt-Along with Sue - Baby Badgers Wednesday, 21 Oct 11:00am
John's Talk on Mistresses and Their Houses Monday, 09 Nov 8:00pm



Maggie Weatherby (The Alexandra) and Barbara Betterton (Southbourne) and Gill Wildman (Hayes Town) were among members to join in recent Zoom chats with members of the Middlesex Board of Trustees.