



CHAIR'S CHAT

with Lorraine
Reed-Wenman

Hello everyone, I am hoping once again that you are well as another month has passed us by with various restrictions imposed on us. We are now edging towards the Christmas period and hopefully some light at the end of the tunnel. After the year we have been through, I sincerely hope that you all get to spend the time with your family and friends and enjoy however you celebrate. It will have been a long time coming and I am sure it will be a welcome time to relax and have fun.

At the time of writing, I am not at all ready for this as my festive season usually starts mid-December. You would have thought that this whole Covid period would have given me a lot of spare time to prepare. However, with both Zoom and phone calls I have been just as busy, which is a good thing,

enabling me to keep in touch with many of you 'face to face' or 'voice to voice', where previously I have not had that opportunity.

I hope you have all taken advantage of using the *Try The WI* flyer around your local area, maybe even placing it in your own windows at home? This was a good way of advertising the WI locally and if you do online meetings, is a way of getting people interested in what you do.

Since March there have been quite a few new members across Middlesex Federation and the WI nationally, so it does work! Let's keep encouraging new members to join us and get us back on the road to recovery and normality—hopefully by February 2021, as there will be no face to face meetings for the remainder of 2020. Further guidance will be coming out soon.

The NFWI Raffle winning tickets did not come knocking on our doors in Middlesex unfortunately, but thank you to all who purchased tickets: all 727 of you which gives MFWI a small share of the proceeds. Every little helps and is gratefully received by Federations nationwide, so please do keep supporting this annual raffle.

Best wishes to you all from the Board of Trustees for the Festive Season and let's hope that 2021 is a far better one for all as we move into our MFWI Centenary year.

Keep safe and stay well.

Lorraine x

IN BRIEF

WI BIRTHDAYS



**Happy birthday to only one
Middlesex WIs which celebrates in
December**

Clay Hill
7 December 1938

On the buses... a clarification

Last month, Gill Wildman gave us top tips for using getting most value from a Freedom Pass. One of our members has reminded us that Middlesex Federation covers a wide area, including areas where public transport passes are issued by Surrey authorities and where senior's pass eligibility, and transport provision, is different.

A LITTLE GIGGLE

*Thanks to Yve McBride for the following
little contribution. With sympathy for
anyone who has learnt English—ever!*

Spell Check

I have a spelling chequer,
It came with my pee sea.
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye cannot sea.
Eye strike a quay and right a word,
And weight for it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar wright,
It shows me strait away.
As soon as a mist ache is maid,
It nose bee fore two late,
And eye can put the error rite.
its rarely, rarely grate,
I've run this poem threw it,
I'm shore your pleased to no
Its letter perfect in it's weigh,
My chequer tolled me sew !

- Sauce unknown

200+ CLUB

OCTOBER 2020 WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our
October 200+ Club enhanced draw!

1st prize - £70

Diane Street, Hillingdon

2nd prize - £40

Audrey Eva, Clay Hill

3rd prize - £30

Stanwell WI



GET IN TOUCH

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Email: secretary@mfwi.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@mfwi.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

THE ALEXANDRA

Sally Littlefair

It was so nice to see 24 members at our Tenth Birthday Party on 6 October. Fun hats provided a good opening to the meeting and illustrated the diversity of our interests and ambitions—from visits to Jamaica to memories of special family occasions. Two items to be taken to a Desert Island were a fascinating insight into what is really important to our members! The quiz, hosted by June, was excellent fun.

It seems that we have to continue with our virtual meetings for some time to come but I hope the Party proved that we can, and do, have some very enjoyable evenings over Zoom and that The Alexandra WI is a group definitely worth keeping together through these difficult and uncharted times until we can meet up again in person in the hopefully not too distant future.

Congratulations to all of you who have made the last ten years so enjoyable and successful. Here's to at least the next ten. Cheers!

Our quilt... I wanted to celebrate our tenth anniversary to include the members in something tangible, fun and which would show off their skills.

Lockdown provided a perfect time for people to think and make their pieces. I gave out calico pieces of fabric measuring 10x12" at our March meeting (the last before lockdown).

As you can see the members came up with some fantastic designs which I have



now put together as the beginning of a quilt. There may be more to come so it is open at the moment.

For me this is so wonderful not only to see the skills of our members but to be able to put this all together as a quilt which is one of my favourite pastimes.

The pieces are all so different with lots of thought and interpretation to show what our WI has meant to each and every member who provided these pieces. I can only say thanks to you all.

Maggie Weatherby, President



WEST DRAYTON

Sarah Wilson

West Drayton WI Members were treated to a 'goody bag' in lieu of a 101st birthday party on Thursday 15th October. Sandie, Pam, Chris, Alison, Sarah and Liz delivered 36 bags containing tea bags, cake, quiz and Sudoku puzzle.

Pauline Garner emailed, "A big thank you to the committee for the goody bag, it was a lovely surprise," while Diana Caley emailed, "Thank you so much for my goody birthday bag it was a lovely surprise. We enjoyed our afternoon tea. So nice to say hello to Liz and Sarah I'm sure we all miss seeing our friends at WI. It was a lovely thought and a big thank



you to the committee for their hard work."

Kay Crone said "Thank you to everyone who made up and delivered the goody bags! I'm just enjoying my cuppa and cake! Happy 101 everyone" and Sheila told us, "Thank you everyone for the goody bag. It was a lovely way to celebrate [our] 101st Birthday."

As we go into lockdown again; we will be coping with the challenges the pandemic has brought to every aspect of our lives as we follow the current government guidelines. We have all missed the sense of fellowship and camaraderie that's so important to our WI life. When we are able to meet up again, we will cherish the times and be stronger together.

MEET YOUR MEWI TRUSTEES



ALISON FREMANTLE

Science and Leisure

WI: West Drayton

Lockdown fact: I have risen to challenge and conquered several DIY renovation and redecoration projects during lockdown.



ANGELA CHESSMAN

Denman Ambassador

WI: Stanwell

Lockdown fact: I loved over 50s exercising with Joe Wicks. I've never liked 'group' exercise but he was fab! I joined everyday throughout the first lockdown! And... yes, this is a Halloween-themed theatre costume!



EMMA WATSON

Newsletter, Social Media

WI: The Alexandra

Fun facts: I was once on University Challenge... and I am a huge fan of One Direction!



JULIE BLOOMFIELD

Speakers List

WI: Halliford, Sunbury-on-Thames, Sunbury Village

Fun fact: I still sleep with my teddy bear who likes being put to bed before me at 7pm.

(Emma's note: Julie's teddy bear featured in Middlesex News in March 2020)



LORRAINE REED WENMAN

Chair

WI: Ruislip Evening

Fun fact: My sleep suit gets an annual outing in my role as Admin to The Veterans Charity Forces March - five consecutive marathons in five days!



MICHELLE GORDON

Trustee

WI: N1, Shoreditch Sisters

Lockdown fact: I created a virtual running group and completed C25k for the 2nd time after falling a bit out of love with running. Absolutely love it now and try and do at least 20,000 steps a day (running and walking).

MORE TRUSTEES



JULES HALL

Vice Chair

WI: Sunbury-on-Thames, Lincoln

Fun fact: this year I tried lock Keeping with Canal & River Trust. Enjoyed it so much I'm training as a Volunteer lock keeper for my local lock.



JULIA LEWIS

Trustee

WI: West Ealing

Fun fact: Here I am trying out a real sword— an 'upgrade' from the usual plastic swords we use in Tai Chi practice.

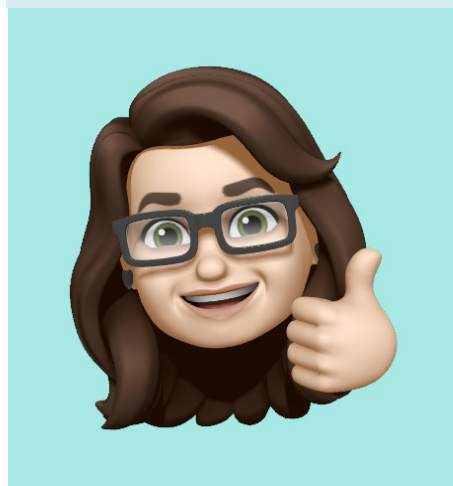


SARAH ENDERSBY

Treasurer

WI: Stanwell, Sunbury-on-Thames

Fun fact: I went white water rafting and flew in a helicopter for the first time when I was 64.



YVE MCBRIDE

Digital Team

WI: Hayes Town

Fun fact: I hide from cameras. (Emma says—she also never stops creating crafts: Yve is one super-creative woman!)

ZOOM!

MEMBER CHATS

Click on the link and join members from across the Federation (and some of our Trustees—see left!) for a chat.

You'll definitely meet someone new!

Sunday 6 December

17:00

Meeting ID: 836 2355 1980

Passcode: 933335

Thursday 17 December

19:00

Meeting ID: 832 0112 3918

Passcode: 648822

CRAFTY POP-INS

Crafty Pop In - bring your craft projects and chat, or just come and chat about crafts!

Get some ideas from fellow members

Thursday 3 December

13:00

Meeting ID: 811 2236 0354

Passcode: 050524

CRAFT INN

A weekly craft get-together on a Monday, hosted by members of the MFWI Craft Committee.

Bring along your unfinished objects (UFOs) or your current project to craft and chat, maybe bring along a glass, cup or mug of something...

Every Monday

19:30

Meeting ID: 816 8394 4835

Passcode: 859741

AROUND THE WIS

LALEHAM

Chris Walker

Despite being unable to celebrate our 85th birthday with a traditional party this October, all members received a 'goody bag' to mark the occasion.

These were much appreciated and here are just some of the comments members posted on our WhatsApp group .

"What a wonderful gift bag - having the first chocolate now with work coffee break"

"Great goodies bag - Happy Birthday Laleham WI"

"wow what a great goody bag - all things delicious"



"Thank you for such a wonderful present"

"Just starting the quiz with a cup of tea and cake"

"Many thanks - such a morale booster"

"Thank you so much for my lovely gift bag - such a lovely thing to lift everyone's spirits"

Everyone is looking forward to next year when hopefully things are more normal.



LEST WE FORGET

Across Middlesex, on a very different Remembrance Day, WI members laid traditional poppy wreaths at local war memorials, with some also placing wreaths on front doors and in their gardens, as a special gesture in this year when the usual 11 November gatherings cannot take place.



Prue Dicey laid a wreath on behalf of Ashford WI at the war memorial in central Ashford, Surrey.



Chair Lorraine's wreath for Ruislip Evening WI at the Ruislip War Memorial.



HA: WI followed the tradition of placing a wreath (made of poppies crocheted in their craft group) at the Pinner Memorial Service on Remembrance Sunday.

2020 REFLECTIONS

Trustee Julia Lewis of West Ealing WI reflects on the summer of 2020

On the minus side first, I so miss so many things, not least my Tai Chi Sword Fighting – no longer possible to have 25 folk charging up a hall waving plastic swords! Also, my Blues Clubs and the mates, live music and great dancing: I was happy to have found a niche for an older single woman to have such fun. Re: WI, it was the events such as theatre, pubs (we have even done a flash mob Jerusalem sing-a-long once to raise WI profile), fund-raising at carnivals etc.

On the plus side: Zoom means I can see dear faces of people I know and my VChoir Friday night sing-along-in your-bedroom-as-loud-as-you-like is good!

Those small summer get togethers in the back garden were a life-line, especially as limited planes and you could hear birdsong so much better. Growing my own few veggies was satisfying and our gardens all benefited from more care.

I tried sorting the house out as so many did but eventually was 'de-cluttered' by a friend – now to start on paperwork this winter. Healthwise I was able to swim again in my gym, loved the odd walk in parks with a friend, do Zoom classes in my pyjamas and try relaxing with good books. I am not letter writing yet but in coldest months, this may be my new hobby.

Mixed blessings everywhere.

MIDDLESEX UPDATES

ACWW

Lorraine Reed-Wenman

I have been a little quiet on the ACWW front this year for obvious reasons, but life has been carrying on the best way possible regarding their projects that many of you may have supported via your *Pennies for Friendship* donations (please keep them coming where you can). Clare Taylor has written an article on the various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – refer right). As with the WI's *No More Violence Against Women* campaign, they raise awareness during the 16 days of activism with their 'Orange the World' campaign.

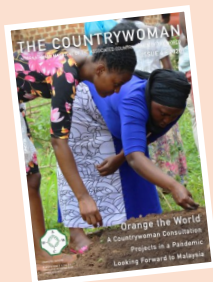


ORANGE THE WORLD 2020
SHINING LIGHT ON THE SHADOW PANDEMIC

I was due to speak to a couple of WIs this year on ACWW, which has not happened so thought it might be time to remind you how you fit into the bigger picture.

As a WI member, you belong to a Federation which is a Member Society, as is NFWI. ACWW holds Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

So, WI member to the UN is not such a big leap. As always, if you need a free talk and I have the time in my diary, I am happy to do a Zoom chat and update you on projects, just let me know via acww@mfwl.org.uk.



ACWW publishes a quarterly magazine, *The Countrywoman*, The ACWW website has a digital archive of *The Countrywoman* covering every issue since March 2016. To read, go to www.acww.org.uk.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Clare Taylor, N1

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—UN SDGs for short—were created as a “plan of action for people, planet and prosperity”. There are 17 of them, used by governments for shaping policy, but they are also a guide for us all for doing our bit at local level. Even if you've not heard of the SDGs, if you're taking part in WI campaigns, you're supporting them.

At top level, the SDGs are simple mission statements, but underlying these are targets and indicators, to act as a route map and to check if the plan is working. This is where you can find the detail, and there is also an excellent app to download for everyday ideas on what to do: see www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment, where there are also links to the apps for both Android and iOS.

But to start with, here are just a few examples of SDGs and WI campaigns that feed into them.

Goal 2: Zero hunger – because while there is food available to feed everyone, many people, including children, still do not have enough food to eat. The WI Food Matters campaign aims to reduce food waste and tackle food poverty, directly addressing this.

Goal 5: Gender equality – because women and girls still suffer discrimination and violence; the WI No More Violence against Women campaign plays an important role here.

Goal 13: Climate action – and a big campaign for WI, who are a founding member of The Climate Coalition.

Goal 14: Life below water – to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. With plastic pollution one of the big areas of concern, the WI's *End Plastic Soup* campaign is an important contribution to fighting this.

DIGITAL TEAM

Yve McBride

Hello everyone,

I hope this message finds you all well. I have missed seeing you at our digital training sessions in County Office and helping with your computer needs.

I would just like to say that if any Middlesex WI member needs assistance with digital queries, training or advice I am available to help.

I'm sure many of you have heard of Zoom and how members are connecting this way. You can join in from a computer, tablet or smartphone and in some cases your home telephone number depending on the type of account the host has.

There is a series of YouTube tutorials created by Buckinghamshire Federation you may wish to have a look at that are very clear explanations for anyone wishing to try for the first time.

To find the tutorials you can either type this link into your internet browser (Safari, Chrome, Internet Explorer etc) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pxz8cRk73MQ> or search for it

'Buckinghamshire Federation Zoom' in on the YouTube website or app. If you would like to try a Zoom meeting but would prefer a one-to-one trial run I am happy to do that with you.

You can contact me on digital-team@mfwl.org.uk or the office telephone number 01895 440161.

As the office is not staffed at the moment there may be a delay in responses but I will get back to you.



A CUP OF COFFEE WITH....

MICHELLE GORDON

Member, Board of Trustees

Michelle joined N1WI in early 2020 and Shoreditch Sisters later this year, where she was elected President. She joined the Board of Trustees in September 2020. Michelle co-founded the WI Wanderers Facebook Group during the coronavirus lockdown in Spring 2020.

Who would you most like to have a cup of coffee/tea with?

I would love to have a cup of tea with Kate Bush – one of most favourite musicians. I would discuss every album and the fabulous concerts of 2014.

What inspired you to join the WI?

In 2020, I decided to do a few things that would be outside of my comfort zone. The WI certainly is – so far, it's been an amazing experience.

What is your most treasured possession?

Stuart, my Mini Cooper.



Which woman inspired you most?

My mum – she's the business – more class and integrity in her little finger than most people walking this planet. It's an honour to call her my mum.

The worst job you have ever done?

My worst and best job are the same answer. Saturday job at Sainsburys – Worst because it really alters your eating habits forever when you find out what really goes on behind the scenes. Best – I met some of my best friends there, and the role allowed me to appreciate how hard and understated retail work actually is.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever?

My 40th birthday! 40 days of pure celebrations with my most favourite people. I am one of the first in my school year as I am born in September. I went

away with all of my best friends and planned lots of dinners/drinks throughout the 40 days. Lots of bubbles, good food an amazing company.

The best biscuit to dunk in tea/coffee?

Bourbon – I typically only have them at work as I would eat them in one sitting if they were in the house.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child?

Don't be afraid to be the odd one out! It's good to be an individual.

How do you relax?

I love listening to music, walking and running. During lockdown, I have really missed my hot yoga sessions.



CRAFT

Continuing our spotlight on 'lockdown craft projects', here are two beautiful, intricate lace projects created by Ching Smith of The Alexandra WI.

I am very pleased I finally completed this **bobbin lace garter**. It is approximately 84 cm long and was completed with the help of the notes, book, YouTube and 'phone-a-friend'.

For the **tatted shawl**, I bought a box of 17 balls of Twilley's Lyscordet Cotton No 5 from a table-top sale at the Northamptonshire Embroiderer's Guild in December 2019 for £2. The inspiration of the pattern was from Pinterest.

I usually bring my tatting as a travel craft as it is not bulky. I started this during our trip to Turkey and then to Perth, Australia. It was finally completed in October. I would like to make a few extra rows but unfortunately I cannot find anyone selling this cotton and the factory has since gone into liquidation.

