



### CHAIR'S CHAT

with Lorraine  
Reed-Wenman

What can I say... another month has passed us by, and a lot has been happening despite Tier 4 lockdown which was followed swiftly by more restrictions when a stricter lockdown was put in place.

Many of you are finding a Zoom meeting of all sorts both interesting and beneficial, for some, I appreciate, it is not so easy. The good news is the roll out of the vaccine is in full swing. I do hope that those of you that have been invited to have your vaccine jabs have done so, or at least booked the appointment and those that have not yet been contacted, will not have too long to wait.

Despite the vaccine, I am sure we will be using video technology for quite some time. If you have an iPad, smart phone, laptop etc and you are unsure how to set up and use Zoom, Skype, Facetime, please do contact our digital team on [digital@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:digital@mfwi.org.uk). There is no need to fear technology and if you give it a go, it will help connect you to your loved ones no matter how far away they are.

For those who can, have you tried the regular Monday craft night chats, Craft Pop Ins, *Denman at Home* demonstrations/talks or joined the *WI Wanderers* Facebook Group yet? Why not join us for our regular

member chats? There is always something to do to while away the hours if there is nothing else going on around you. See page 3 for details.

Our thanks go to all of you who voted on the Resolution Shortlist, it was much appreciated that around a third of MFWI members were able to vote in some form or other. Results can be found on page 5 along with further notes on the resolution process.

### Calling all cooks!

Do you have some family recipes that you might like to share as part of our **Centenary Recipe Book**?

Please email to [secretary@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mfwi.org.uk) or contact me for my address for a postal submission.

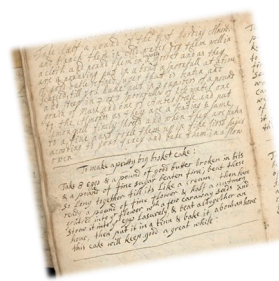


Image: Wellcome Collection

Things are not ideal right now, but let's look on the bright side with positive thoughts and hope that this virus is controlled sooner rather than later but please, if anyone is isolated and feels like a chat, give me a call on my usual number - 07976 398 533.

Stay safe and keep well

**Lorraine x**

### NFWI ANNUAL MEETING

8 June 2021

MFWI has been allocated 14 observer tickets for this year's Royal Albert Hall meeting at a cost of £22 each. This is a significant reduction in the number of tickets we had available last year, due to the probability we will still be social distancing in some shape or form.

MFWI Board of Trustees have decided that we will hold a ballot for ticket allocation.

Please send your name, WI and contact details to [sarahendersby@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:sarahendersby@mfwi.org.uk) by **14 February 2021**. Please do not send any payment for now. If our allocation is oversubscribed, we will apply for extra tickets but there is no guarantee we will be successful.

### MFWI ANNUAL MEETING

Change of date  
22 July 2021

Due to the current situation with the coronavirus pandemic and the uncertainty of restrictions on gatherings, we have only been able to provisionally book a date which we are asking you to save in your diary.

The meeting is now planned to take place on **Thursday 22 July 2021** at the **Royal Geographic Society** on Kensington Gore, South Kensington.

Pencil it in... We very much hope this to be an 'in person' highlight of our Centenary year!

### MFWI CENTENARY COMPETITION

★ *Reminder* ★

As you know, we are fast approaching our **Federation Centenary In 2021**, we have decided to produce a personalised item to celebrate. For this we need a little help with the design of our very own tote bags!

The design needs to have a WI theme, contain the Federation badge and be as fabulous as the Middlesex Federation is.

Closing date for submissions is **Sunday 31 January 2021**.

Please send entries to:  
[michellegordon@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:michellegordon@mfwi.org.uk)

# IN BRIEF

## WI BIRTHDAYS



### Oops!

Last month we missed our two January birthdays.

### A belated Happy Birthday to...

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Harrow-on-the-Hill | 7 January 2013  |
| Sunbury Village    | 23 January 2012 |

### And to our February birthday WIs

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Iver Evening    | 8 February 1962  |
| Hillingdon      | 19 February 1919 |
| London West End | 21 February 2006 |

## HUXLEY CUP

The NFWI's annual horticultural competition is back with a twist in 2021. WIs are invited to design a planting plan for a raised 3m x 3m bed that will be displayed within the Community Allotment area at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, 5–11 July 2021.

Entries must reflect both the Festival themes and the vision statements of the WI: Bold and Inspiring, Growing and Relevant Inclusive, Flexible.

The deadline for entries is **30 April 2021**. For more information, contact your Secretary.



## 200+ CLUB

### DECEMBER 2020 WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our December 2020 **200+ Club** draw!

#### 1st prize - £35

Stanwell WI

#### 2nd prize - £20

Jules Hall, Sunbury on Thames

#### 3rd prize - £15

Michelle Gordon,  
N1 & Shoreditch Sisters

### MIDDLESEX NEWS NEEDS YOU!

Please send articles (maximum 150 words please) and photos to [newsletter@mfwi.org.uk](mailto: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 2021 will be £12.00 for 12 copies starting in April 2021. January, February and March 2021 copies will be free of charge to those currently receiving paid copies. An order form for 2021 will be coming your way nearer the time.

WIs will no longer be sent a free printed copy in 2021 in order to be a little more eco-friendly and to reduce costs.

As always, a soft copy (PDF) will be sent to all officers and members with an email address, to pass on, at no charge.

*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.*

***Need to send us a cheque while the office is closed?***

*Please email Sarah Endersby for an alternative postal address.*

## GET IN TOUCH

### COUNTY OFFICE

Unit 3 - No 7 The Green, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7PL

Tel: 01895 440161

Email: [secretary@mfwi.org.uk](mailto: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.***

**CHAIR:** Lorraine Reed-Wenman ..... [chair@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:chair@mfwi.org.uk)  
**VICE CHAIR:** Jules Hall ..... [vicechair1st@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:vicechair1st@mfwi.org.uk)  
**SECRETARY:** ..... [secretary@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mfwi.org.uk)  
**TREASURER:** Sarah Endersby ..... [treasurer@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@mfwi.org.uk)

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**SPEAKERS DIRECTORY:** Julie Bloomfield ..... [speakers@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:speakers@mfwi.org.uk)  
**WEBSITE:** ..... [website@mfwi.org.uk](http://website@mfwi.org.uk)

# KEEP IN TOUCH

## MEMBER CHATS



Join members from across the Federation  
(and some of our Trustees) for a chat.

**Sunday 21 February 17:00**

Meeting ID: 843 5730 8545  
Passcode: 131656

**Wednesday 10 March 19:30**

Meeting ID: 874 3875 3809  
Passcode: 909592

**Thursday 25 February 19:30**

Meeting ID: 873 8351 4667  
Passcode: 960683

**Sunday 21 March 17:00**

Meeting ID: 818 4010 6710  
Passcode: 701935

## CRAFTY POP-INS

Bring your craft projects and chat,  
or just come and chat about crafts.

**13:00**

**First Thursday of the month**

4 February

4 March

1 April

6 May

**Zoom link**

Meeting ID:  
879 0513 1326  
Passcode:  
405027



## 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...

**19:30**

**Every Monday**

**Zoom link**

Meeting ID:  
845 2969 7238  
Passcode:  
829648



# AROUND THE WIS

## HARLINGTON

Sarah Wilson

Harlington WI members met in the car park of a local garden centre in Harmondsworth in mid-December to distribute the December meeting 'goody bags'.

The bags included a Christmas card, tea bags, Christmas cake packed into a handmade, recycled and re-useable gift bag, along with a flowering winter cyclamen plant that can be planted out in the garden once the season ends.

Newsletter was produced where each member had contributed with their Christmas memories or a favourite seasonal poem or joke and some puzzles, to mark the festive period.

Anna received a bookmark for winning the Christmas Zoom Quiz held on 15th December: congratulations Anna!



## ASHFORD

Helen Beecham

### 2020 Hindsight

Looking back on 2020

Unexpected times aplenty.

WI were always there

Lets us know how much they care.

Technology came to the fore

Phones and zoom, WhatsApp and more.

Spring and summer stay at home

Winter came we still can't roam.

Again the rates of COVID rise

That jab of vaccine is the prize.

Christmas fair was not planned

Pop up sales safely 'manned'.

Every hurdle was surmounted

Craft and preserve sales counted.

Friendship, laughs and mental tasks

Newsletters gave all we could ask.

Birthday and Christmas party bags

Tiaras, treats, quizzes and gags.

Now 2021 looms near

Hoping for all we hold dear.

Return to meeting in a hall



Smiles and hugs to one and all.  
Meanwhile entries in the Scrapbook  
Will be the safely distanced look.  
However long the last lap takes  
WI friends easier makes.

*Clockwise from top: Cathy and Heather helping pack Christmas food bags, including cakes baked by the WI, at The Salvation Army; delivering gift crackers to the local care home; butterfly card made by the craft group.*





# MEWI UPDATES

## RESOLUTIONS 2021

Lorraine Reed-Wenman

The selection results of the MFWI voting for the recent shortlist (as listed in WI Life) is below.

The number of votes received is much higher than we expected to be honest, as lockdown prevented many WIs from co-ordinating any responses.

Votes have now been sent to NFWI Public Affairs.

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Ovarian Cancer            | 246        |
| Women's Heart Disease     | 144        |
| Racism & Discrimination   | 70         |
| Protect Your Nature Space | 69         |
| Peat Bog Destruction      | 36         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>        | <b>565</b> |

In February, the NFWI Board of Trustees will confirm the 2021 Annual Meeting resolution/s based on the number of selections from WI members.

We will receive resolution/s briefings and wording in the March mailing.

### Further reading...

For those who take a deeper interest in the resolutions, here is a message from NFWI:

### Resolution amendments and urgencies.

*To allow members more time, the deadline for members to submit urgency resolutions and amendments only to the NFWI has been pushed back to 9 April.*

*Any proposed urgency resolutions and suggested amendments from WIs and Federations will be considered by the NFWI Board of Trustees and can be*

*emailed directly to the NFWI Public Affairs Department at [pa@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwf.org.uk).*

*Please note that proposed amendments must not materially change a resolution. Amendments should enhance a resolution, whilst retaining the original objective. (An 'urgency resolution' is a resolution submitted after the closing date for submissions for inclusion in the agenda of an Annual Meeting of the NFWI. An urgency resolution deals with a development arising after that date, and which requires action to be taken at once to be effective.)*

*The vote on the resolution/s for the 2020/21 process will remain after the Annual Meeting as planned. WIs will have time before and after the Annual Meeting in June to consider how they wish to vote, and a deadline for WIs to cast their votes online will be circulated in due course, followed by guidance on how to do this later in the year.*

## STAR GAZING

Alison Fremantle, Science & Leisure

For many thousands of years, our ancestors have been star gazing out of a natural curiosity for the heavenly bodies in our skies, and to make sense of their existence.

Trying to understand our place in the cosmos has led to amazing astronomical discoveries and has inspired generations of painters, musicians and literary artists. Discovery by the Ancient Greeks and Chinese of the Zodiac – a Greek word meaning 'circle of animals' has led to the telling of stories, and being able to determine the time of year.

The zodiac constellations lie along the path of the sun and sailors have been guided by them in their exploration of the globe, farmers have used the annual rhythms of stars to influence agriculture.

Today the Zodiac is mostly associated with Astrology – and many of us enjoy 'reading our stars' daily in the newspaper!

There are quite a few astronomical clubs and societies around the internet. I don't expect they are meeting under present (pandemic) conditions, but I think it may be interesting to check out some of them one day. One of them, The West of

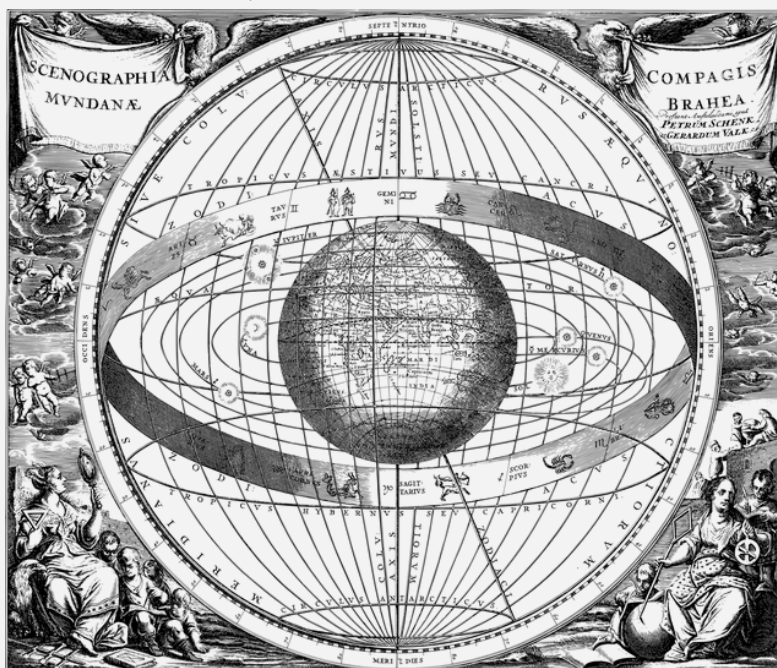
accessible as you don't need membership.

I know very little about Astronomy, but I spend many (clear) nights stargazing. I have an app on my phone called *Sky Map*, downloaded for free, which I use to try to put names to the stars I'm looking at (you can even use it inside or when it's cloudy).

Of course we have light pollution over London, but in countryside locations, where there are no lights, or out at sea, you can see so much more.

Once, when I was in France, I saw the Milky Way so clearly, and in Greece, anchored off the mainland, I watched shooting stars for over half an hour - amazing!

In these frustrating times of lockdown, this is one of my more enjoyable ways of passing the time. I've never lost interest in the beautiful night sky and all its wonders!



London Astronomical Society meets in monthly in Uxbridge (near where I live) and Harrow alternately. Also, the Baker Street Irregular Astronomers is, apparently, very popular and very

# CRAFTS

## SHOW THE LOVE FEBRUARY 2021

How many of you know about this annual event? Do you know what it stands for? A quick summary is that the WI is part of the Climate Change Coalition and *Show the Love* is just one of the annual events to raise awareness of climate change during 1-21 February 2021. This is done using green hearts as a recognised symbol of support.

Conversations are started or awareness raised by the wearing of green hearts, sending one to your local MP or just simply giving them to family and friends. This is quite hard to do during lockdown so why not display green hearts in your windows at home or hanging from your front door? At the top here is Lorraine's green heart rag wreath to go on her front door - a green heart in any form is ok to use. For more information contact [craft@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:craft@mfwi.org.uk).

There are also many resources to be found on MyWI or at:

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/resource>



## MFWI CENTENARY BANNER PANELS

Lorraine Reed-Wenman

We have had a few panels sent in from WIs and are looking forward to receiving more.

If anyone is unsure of what I am talking about, please contact [craft@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:craft@mfwi.org.uk). If you have a finished panel to send in, please do not send it to the office but contact me for my home address if you do not already have it.

## Where have you been?

We'd love to see photos what you've been getting up to during lockdown: Crafts? Cooking?

Have you made any discoveries on your lockdown exercise outings?

*Please do share with us!*

[newsletter@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mfwi.org.uk)

## DENMAN AT HOME

Buying a Denman At Home Gift Experience e-voucher is the gift that gives access to Denman's new online adventures from the comfort of your home. From cookery courses and craft demos to history lessons and fun activities for all the family, a new online adventure awaits.

To purchase, go to the Denman website.



## DENMAN AT HOME GIFT EXPERIENCE

## HEXAGON PROJECT

Lorraine Reed-Wenman

For those who took up the mantle and are having a go, how are you doing with your 'hexes'?

Here is my effort... Quite a relaxing activity when you've had a day in front of a screen!





# GETTING INVOLVED

## CHANGE STARTS HERE: CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

Sarah Wilson, WI Adviser

It's been a strange few months but the WI will survive in spite of everything, and we will all once again meet in person, hug our families and friends, and look back on these strange times, perhaps not with fondness, but with gratitude we have come out the other side.

Many WIs have been unable to hold their Annual Meeting and recruit volunteers to join the Committee. It is the Committee which is responsible for running your WI and devising its programme of events and activities. Each Committee is made up of members who act as trustees of the WI.

The main role of the Committee is to:

- meet regularly to discuss WI business (at least six times a year) and keep minutes of these meetings
- organise meetings and activities for members
- stay up to date with the Middlesex Federation and NFWI and feed back to members
- suggest policy and plans of action to members for approval
- oversee the funds of the WI.

## Committee Roles

- President - responsible for the overall running, elected by the members

The other roles are elected by the Committee:

- Vice President(s) (up to three) – supports the President and shares some of her responsibilities;
- Secretary – ensures Committee business is carried out;
- Treasurer – oversees the WI's accounts and gives financial advice to Committee.

Your WI needs Committee members with diverse skills and talents to remain successful. Why not ask your secretary if you observe a Committee meeting in action.

Members elect a new Committee each year at their Annual Meeting. It should include at least three Committee



*Remembering in-person Committee meetings*

members, of whom one is chosen as president.

A special Committee meeting should then be held as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting to elect the officers and attend to other urgent business.

Dual (or more) members who belong to more than one WI can stand for election at their dual WIs pending the adoption of a byelaw to permit this. The Committee may also co-opt members for specific duties. Any vacancy which occurs during the WI year may be filled by co-option until the WI's next Annual Meeting.

## ARE YOU UP TO DATE

# ?

### NFWI Newsletter

If you don't receive this from NFWI already, you are missing out on a lot, especially if you do not venture looking at MyWI online. To get the newsletter, register via MyWI or by emailing NFWI Public Affairs on [pr@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:pr@nfwl.org.uk).

### Public Affairs Digest

The Public Affairs Digest is a monthly e-update (that is, it's an email in an easy-to-read format) of all the public affairs news. You can subscribe at <https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns>.



## OFFICERS TRAINING



We will be holding the second of two sessions for new officers, and those existing officers who would like a refresher, in February.

This session is also open to any member considering standing for office, and who would like to get a feel for the role, its responsibilities and some of the resources and tools available to assist.

This session will be held via Zoom and will be around two hours long.

### Presidents & Secretaries

**10.30, Saturday 20 February**

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 878 9892 8919  
Passcode: 181973

To book a place, please email [sarahendersby@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:sarahendersby@mfwi.org.uk)

# A LITTLE FUN....

## IBIZA IN MIDDLESEX

Gill Wildman

My friends know I've no interest in gardening, but with ten years' neglect, my wooden garden shed falling to pieces and time on my hands (lockdown!) spurred me on. It was a big space to fill I but didn't want to add to mowing duties.

With holidays cancelled, my 'beach dream' theme, aka cocktails in the sun in Ibiza came about. It helped while clearing out the other shed, I found



extra bags of stones and 6ft high bamboo plant with just enough space for me to drive home. It felt like driving a tank... I thought Charlie Dimmock doesn't have these problems on her Garden Rescue programme! I didn't have the Rich Brothers either, but who needed them, when I've got a lovely Latvian handyman. He loved painting my very bright pinks for seats, doors and gates and new fencing, and made a fab job of renovating a rusty 1888 treadle sewing machine in purple and gold and topping it off with another shed find, an old washbasin and jug, which I planted with succulents.

several colourful deckchairs hidden amongst the junk!

It was difficult sourcing local materials (everyone else was doing the same), so spent many hours on the iPad, eventually having 75 20kg bags of different size and colour gravel delivered from Derbyshire!

A super company: on time delivery, driver very helpful, took pallets to back of the house, then had to pose for his camera (good side of course!). Screwfix click & collect was my 'go to' for most things, queuing up early with the builders, enjoying the banter.

My 23-year-old Nissan Micra was put to the test with 2 metre high rolls of bamboo fencing, another time some

My final delivery arrived in October on a pallet from France: ooh la la, my sunbathing woman in a pink leotard in the cobra yoga pose! She brightens my day, but will have to cover her up when the snow comes, as I can't lift 25 kilos of resin and concrete. Luckily, she doesn't need watering and adds colour to my low maintenance garden. I'm so, so ready to 'party, party'—next summer hopefully!

## WHAT THREE WORDS

Yve McBride

Have you heard about 'What 3 Words'?

It is a free app available for anyone with a smartphone, and can also be accessed via the website <https://what3words.com>. It's a 'locator app' which will help you locate anything, anywhere without a traditional map.

The designers have divided the world up into 3 metre x 3 metre areas and given each area three unique words. For instance, Middlesex Federation Office is **liability.likely.lease**. Buckingham Palace is **fence.gross.bats!**

As you can see they are not words connected to the addresses in anyway but easy to inform others of a location.

Upon opening the app it will give you a simple three word reference of your exact location.

It is used by our emergency services to locate those that need assistance and has many other uses.

Here are just a few non-urgent ones that I have found very useful:

- Locating my car in a large carpark – I just saved the words, it took me straight back to my car.

- Finding spouse in a large supermarket (much easier than 'I am in the baked bean aisle!')

- Meeting friends in a country park
- When I can't find a street sign

It is one of those apps that you may only use once in a while but it is well worth having on your phone.

Why not give it a try and let us know how you have found it useful?

*Can you find where these are?*

**flute.hunt.bound**

**tools.transmitted.doctor**