



Middlesex News

September 2021

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chair's Chat

with Lorraine
Reed-Wenman

Fabulous reporting
coming from
members...

It's encouraging that
we are finally getting
back to face-to-face

meetings with venues opening. Those whose venues are not opening are meeting up for picnics and walks outside. Now there are fewer restrictions, friendships are being rekindled as some have not had the opportunity like many of us to meet up on Zoom.

August is historically a month off for some WIs (going back to when factories and workplaces closed for the month), but I know there are many WIs who meet every month of the year as the members like to do so.

Nothing stops in Federation, so behind the scenes we have been beaver away, as are many WIs with accounts, general admin, programming and a host of other things that we and your committees do every year, all year round. For me, I continue to spin plates between WI and personal life (as do many others so I know I am no different; we all have our challenges) and have been able to be a little busier on the Public Affairs front.

I don't know how many of you take part in our Public Affairs calls to action... I fear not too many as reading any of the emails, newsletter and NFWI missives does not seem to be high on many members lists. I have been



creating canaries (patterns via this link <https://craftivist-collective.com/blog/2021/06/canarycraftivists/>) to send to my MP to highlight the climate change issues (For those who do not get the connection: canaries/gas/coalmines/greenhouse gases).

COP26 is being held in November and we (the UK) are hosting and need to lead by example as press releases promising all sorts does not cut it—it's only words, and as we all know from history, it is *Deeds Not Words* that count, as noted by history and one of my banners from a couple of years ago.



MyWI also has many resources for public affairs issues amongst other things. You may not want to login lots but occasionally it is worthwhile to know what is going on: <https://www.thewi.org.uk>

With another of my hats on, I had my first craft trip to Stanwell WI with a beginners Silk Painting session and am looking forward to sharing more crafting for beginners with other WIs in the weeks and months to come.

The annual Cow Byre Craft Exhibition in Ruislip is in full flow as I write, so more on that next time.

Enjoy getting back together, look after yourselves, keep safe and with one step at a time we can resume some sort of normality.

Lorraine x

It's WI Day Afternoon Tea Time!

Thursday 16th September

London Marriot County Hall

Details on page 3



WI BIRTHDAYS



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

West Ealing 27 September 2011

CENTENARY RECIPES

CENTENARY RECIPES

Calling all cooks!

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

Please email, with photos where possible, to secretary@mfw.org.uk or contact Lorraine for her address for a postal submission.



JULY 2021 WINNERS

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

1st prize - £70

Helen Eales, Greenford

2nd prize - £40

Jean Bicknell, Manor Farm

3rd prize - £30

Gwen Hayward, West Drayton

Interested in joining?

Keep your eye out in your email for the application form for the next 200+ Club year. Applications close 30 September!

GET IN TOUCH

COUNTY OFFICE

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

Tel: 01895 440161

Email: secretary@mfw.org.uk

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

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WEBSITE Emma Watson..... website@mfw.org.uk

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 2021 is £12.00 for 12 copies starting in April 2021. 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** as a PDF file. You are free to print and distribute copies to your members/community as you wish. In addition, most of our stories may also be found on the news page of our website.

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

Please email Sarah Endersby for an alternative postal address.

WI Day Afternoon Tea

On Thursday 16th September, from 13.00-15.00 the MFWI Trustees would like to invite you to a beautiful Afternoon Tea at the London Marriot County Hall.

The hotel has stunning views of the London Eye, Big Ben and Westminster Bridge. Occupying London's former City Hall and overlooking the Houses of Parliament: we are really in for a treat!



There will be two options:

Afternoon Tea with Free Flowing Bubbles

for 90 minutes

£49.00

Afternoon Tea with unlimited Tea and Water

£33.00

The venue is a 6 minute walk from Westminster Tube station (Jubilee line) and a 2 minute walk from London Eye Pier.



Please email Secretary@mfwl.org.uk to reserve a place or for any queries.

Closing date for booking and payment will be 31st August and payment must be made in advance by bank transfer, using your Surname/Tea as reference.

We will need to know your dietary requirements (vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, lactose or dairy free, vegetarian or vegan, any nut or other food allergies) at the time of booking to enable the venue to cater for everyone.

Photos: <https://www.marriott.co.uk/>



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, and maybe bring along a glass, cup or mug of something...

19:30

Every Monday

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 845 2969 7238

Passcode: 829648



Crafty Pop-Ins



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

13:00, First Thursday of the month

2 September

7 October

4 November

2 December

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 879 0513 1326

Passcode: 405027

FINCHLEY

Rita Gupta

From Resolution to Completed Art Project

A collaboration project between Chelsea College of Art and the WI offered an opportunity for members Maralyn, Clare and Alison to show their creativeness and share skills with the college students. Maralyn cleverly worked with the similarity in appearance between a section through an apple and a woman's reproductive organs to promote '5 Minutes that Matter' Cervical Smear Awareness: 'If an Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away, then 5 Minutes Can Save Your Life'.

Shocked to learn that women avoid smear tests through fear they don't look 'right', she used the idea of a decorated 'lady garden' as her basis.

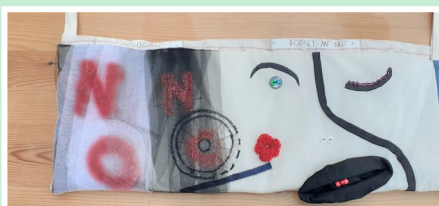
Clare, like many, feeling isolated during the lockdown, created a quilt, which was also a letter to her sister in Australia. She used scraps of material from garments that had meaning to them both, inspired by letters between sisters in Alice Walker's *The Colour Purple*.

The quilt embodied our resolution *Link Together to Alleviate Loneliness*.



Alison used 'No More Violence Against Women' as her message, creating a banner formed of separate panels which incorporated many different sewing techniques. She chose a banner as it has the power to stop people in their tracks and make them think.

What talented women!



WEST HAMPSTEAD

Debby Burman

West Hampstead WI enjoyed a walk in Green Park at the end of July and enjoyed the extraordinary exhibition made up of over 100 life sized elephant sculptures.

Staged by CoExistence, the herd had been exhibited all over London and had come back together for the final week.



Fashioned from Lantana—an invasive weed that devastates crops—the elephants were crafted by villages across India.

For more on this interesting project visit the CoExistence website:
<https://coexistence.org/>

BEDFONT BELLES

Jenny Hanrahan

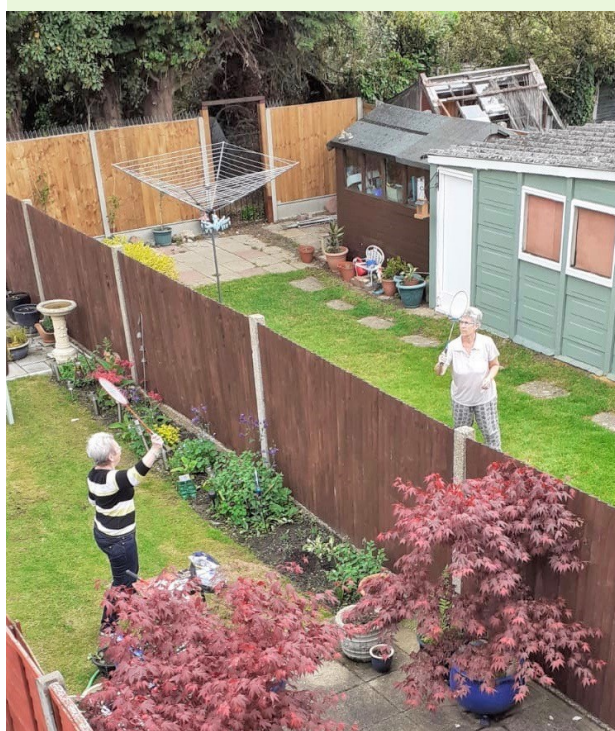
Two of our committee members took things to the extreme to get their exercise during lockdown by playing socially distanced badminton over their garden fence.

The problem was they couldn't see when the shuttlecock was on its way back over!



But now that things are a little more back to normal, we were able to have our first meeting in July in our President's garden.

After the catch-up on news and official business had been completed, we were able to plan our next meetings and even a day out. This was followed by more catching up, sandwiches, cake, tea, maybe a little prosecco and a raffle to complete a lovely afternoon together.





HAYES TOWN

Gill Wildman

Sixteen members met for (hopefully) the last time in the Bandstand suitably decorated with colourful pompoms (and Penny Shervill matching with her Pom Pom sun hat!) Wendy Capehorn's beautifully knitted Hayes Town WI bunting.

After *Jerusalem* and WI business, I passed some Quality Street around, but not to be eaten yet, rather each colour wrapper represented a subject members had to talk about from my list: travel, sport, and so on.

The funniest one came from Jo Johnson who announced she was a Happy Hooker to shrieks of laughter: her subject had been hobbies & her passion is... *crocheting*!

As it will be her and Marion Batchelor's birthdays next week, we stopped for yummy cakes and of course sang *Happy Birthday*.

Everyone is looking forward to meeting up again on 19th August in our community centre.



WEST EALING

Sally Greenbrook

It was a very long 518 days between meetings, but we were delighted to get back into the Community Centre for our July meeting. We were thrilled to have 20 members attending our first night back and even more excited to meet some of our members for the first time in person as they joined during lockdown and we've only met them on Zoom before. As one of them put it 'it's like meeting people off the telly!'

We had planned to have a speaker from our chosen charity, St Mungo's Ealing, to tell us about the work they do to support rough sleepers in our community, but unfortunately our speaker was pinged by the Covid app.

However, we luckily foresaw this possibility and had a back up of a game of People Bingo where members were given bingo cards and had to find someone who was born in another

country or was wearing patterned socks or has been to Denman College. It was a lovely opportunity for members to chat and get to know each other.

We were taking it easy in our first meeting, skipping some of our usual activities until we get back into the swing of things. As such, we didn't sing *Jerusalem* (although we watched a video of it being sung at the 2015 Annual Meeting) or have a raffle. We did however have cake and we were delighted that our members rose to the occasion with their cake contributions!



Meanwhile in the gardens of West Drayton...

Kay Crone

Back in lockdown in the spring, our gardening 'expert', Liz Morrell, had the great idea that we could all have a go at growing potatoes.

Most of us had never done it before, but by this stage of the many lockdowns, we were ready for anything new!

Liz 'chitted' the seed potatoes ready for us and then we all collected a few with a small amount of chicken manure (very smelly, but the magic ingredient, we were assured!).

We planted them in any container we had, and as the leaves appeared, we kept covering them in more soil, adding the manure after 4 or 5 weeks.



My haul was about 2.5lbs (1 kg), but others had 6 or 7 lbs (around 3kg) and it's definitely on my list to do again next year. Nothing beats the taste of freshly dug new potatoes, cooked with a bit of garden mint.





STANWELL

Marilyn Rix

Several groups from Stanwell WI attended the Middlesex Federation Annual meeting in July via Zoom.

We enjoyed the great speakers and a very uplifting speech from Ann Jones.

President Mary Jeffery, Treasurer Angela Chessman and committee member Maureen Stone had the luxury of cooling off in President Mary Jeffery's pool (lucky Mary!) after listening to the annual meeting on an extremely hot days.

WEST DRAYTON

Kay Crone

In July, West Drayton WI members were all invited to a tea party to celebrate the birthday of NHS.

It was held in the garden of one of the members, and we enjoyed prosecco and soft drinks followed by homemade cakes and tea served in china cups and saucers.

There was a quiz to identify plants in the garden and we coloured in cards to send to NHS workers we felt had helped us in the last year.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed meeting and chatting and a good afternoon was had by all!

