



# Middlesex News

## October 2021

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

### Chair's Chat

Lorraine  
Reed-Wenman

Hello everyone!

Once again time has whizzed by and I have no idea where it went, what I did or what I am about to do. I thought I had left life in the fast

lane when I left the City of London many moons ago... clearly not this past month!

Sadly, I would have been in my bolt hole 'office' in Corfu at the time of writing this, but I was not comfortable with travelling to and from as we are still shielding family members and if anyone knows Greek airports, during the summer, they are not mainly used by those who like to follow rules. I hope however that some of you managed to get a break of some sort to re-charge your batteries.

Having said we are busy, please do communicate with us. As a team we are here to help, clarify your queries and we do still appreciate snail mail if anyone is unable to use email. Some of you may be surprised, but I still use a fountain pen! I do hear murmurs from the WI chatter at times of discontent, happiness, confusion but I rarely get correspondence or discussion to back it up—it is so much easier if we were made aware of things as we can't know what we don't know, and needless to say, we cannot fix or clarify anything we know nothing of.



*Thanks to Diana Cornhill (of Norwood Green and West Ealing WIs) and her fellow stitchers for delivering almost 100 quilts to us, which have been dispatched to those in need including these charities: Domestic Abuse Survivors, Brain Tumour charity and teenagers in care.*



I do hope you are all as well as can be expected and you are able to get out and about a little more than you have been doing. Talking of wellness, I have had my regular breast screening done: please do take up your appointments if and when offered.

WI Day came and went and to be honest as we did not have our planned afternoon tea, it seemed very quiet on the MFWI front. I hope you all managed to mark the day in one way or another. Hayes Town did add a splash of colour—to be featured in the November newsletter. We will try and book another date for Afternoon Tea for early December so watch this space.

We have had some observers at our Board of Trustees meetings, more details to come, however we still have capacity for others to join us. All you have to do is get in touch to show your interest. Same applies if anyone is interested in being a WI Adviser or maybe joining our sub committees such as Public Affairs or Craft: more hands make light work, as we all know. Contact [secretary@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mfwi.org.uk) to register your interest.

Our MFWI ACM March 2022 date is not that far away. It is our Centenary meeting (finally!) and we are asking all members to take part in the poll attached to the email in which this newsletter is sent. For those who do not have access to email, please feel free to telephone or post your views

- Will you attend the face to face meeting at the RGS in March 2022 if it goes ahead
- Are you happy to travel into central London?
- Would you not attend the RGS under any circumstances?

Best wishes

**Lorraine x**

## WI BIRTHDAYS



*October is a massive month for WI birthdays in Middlesex Federation.*

We want to know how your WI is celebrating in 2021  
Please share with us!

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

## 200+ CLUB

### AUGUST 2021 WINNERS

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

**1st prize - £35**

Mary Jeffery, Stanwell

**2nd prize - £20**

Pat Darius, Manor Farm

**3rd prize - £15**

Jill Bonar, Southbourne

*Good luck to everyone who has submitted an application for the coming year's 200+ Club!*

## GET IN TOUCH

### COUNTY OFFICE

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Tel: 01895 440161  
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*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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## 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 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.



## IVER EVENING

Margaret Smith

A presentation was given by Joan Horton on *Lawmakers, Breakers and Enforcers* for our **June meeting**—a history of how our legal system evolved into today's Parliamentary Democracy and independent judiciary, and how miscreants offended, were caught and dealt with.

Women's involvement gradually increased in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the vote, and the introduction of women police, MPs magistrates and judges.

Today, the Supreme Court is headed by Lady Hale, Dame Cressida Dick is the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and there have been two female Prime Ministers.

However, offenders haven't really changed much over the centuries—only adapted to life in their times. For example, petty thieves have always targeted untraceable and easy to sell items: textiles pre 20<sup>th</sup> century were extremely expensive and an easy target as one sheet or tablecloth from a washing line looked much another.

In more recent times it was radios, then TVs, then videos, then PCs, and now it's laptops and mobile phones. What next one wonders? The talk ended with some anecdotes from Joan's 34 years as a local JP including some hilarious cases of indecent exposure. Joan found that although cases could make her cross, upset or exasperated, the hardest thing had always been to maintain a deadpan face and not laugh at the sheer stupidity so often portrayed.

For our **July meeting**, a presentation was given by Joan Horton on DNA—an explanation of how it makes us who we are, the history of its discovery, and the main uses to which the knowledge is put today: fighting crime, inventing new medical treatments, and tracing our family history.

As a qualified nurse, Joan had always had an interest in DNA's role in hereditary conditions, especially as much of the research and its discovery was done at King's College Hospital, where she trained. During her 34 years as a JP, DNA had been introduced as a crime detection tool and is now indispensable.

One of her main hobbies is family history, in which DNA is also becoming a significant tool in discovering one's forbears, and relatives one didn't know one had. Except for identical twins, we are all genetically unique, however only 1% of our DNA accounts for humanity's differences.

We share DNA with every living being, and the talk concluded with the information that we share 50% of our DNA with a cabbage!

In **August** we had John Thirkettle on *Adventures and Experiences*.

John gave an amusing account of his childhood during the war and his call-up for National Service a few years later. By then he was part way through an engineering

apprenticeship, which his father asked he be allowed to complete. Ultimately he joined the RAF, where his National Service stretched into a full career. Various strange and funny encounters with local during postings to Germany, Cyprus, and Egypt were related, and after leaving the RAF John continued to work and travel widely.

We were all in fits over his tale of attending a large and long-winded Japanese convention. He sneaked out of the hall, but later, being unable to read the signs couldn't find his way back. On opening the door into what he thought was the hall, he found himself gate-crashing a wedding, where guests came up talking to him in Japanese. They introduced him to everyone as is the custom if a stranger walks in, so it took some time. Then on returning to his convention they wanted to know what took him so long... an interesting talk!

*Images from Iver: A beautiful cushion cover crafted by Pat Gravette (left) and azalea and clematis from Margaret Smith's garden (above).*







## SUNBURY ON THAMES

Susan Whitworth

Sunbury on Thames WI has been holding its meetings in a local park for the last three months, culminating in a fish and chip lunch attended by 32 members.

It has been so good to see each other in person after so many months of Zoom meetings!

Fortunately the officers have been able to project their voices sufficiently to be able to be heard in the open air, but are looking forward to September when we are hoping to be meeting as usual in a hall.

At the beginning of September, a group was able to join together to travel to Painshill Park near Cobham. The sun

shone, we had excellent tour guides for our visit and we ended up with a very welcome cup of tea, all included in the price. Those members who could not walk far were even able to travel by buggy and have their

guided tour that way.

We had had a Zoom talk earlier in the year about Painshill and were delighted to experience the beauty of the landscape in person.



## KEEP IN TOUCH



### 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**

7 October

4 November

2 December

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 879 0513 1326

Passcode: 405027

## MICROPLASTICS: IT ALL COMES OUT IN THE WASH

Alison Fremantle

The NFWI Public Affairs team has been working in the All-Party Parliamentary Group to discuss potential policy solutions regarding microplastics.

They have had round table discussions with washing machine manufacturers, textile industries, academics, industry and retail representatives and environmental organisations to produce a six policy recommendation intended to stem the tide of microplastic fibre release into our waters.

This will be published soon and findings will be presented to Parliament ministers for discussion. It will be available on the Wi website for members to read after publication.

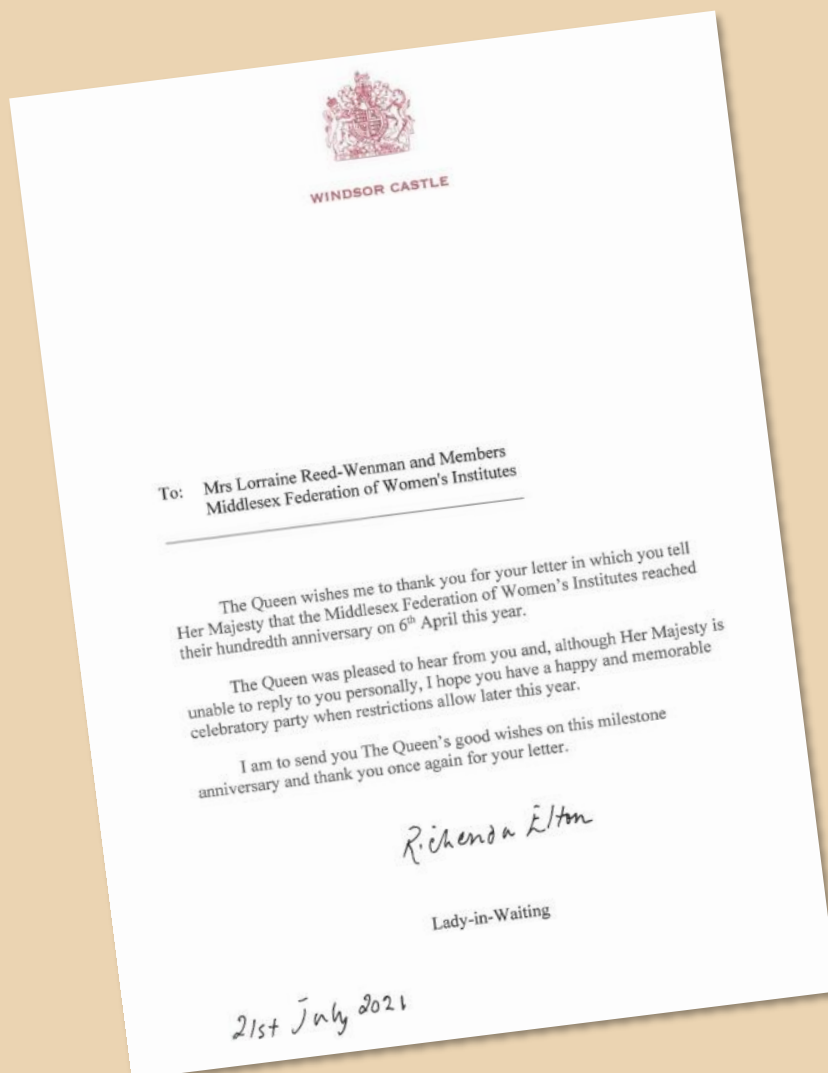
In the meantime I think we members need to do all we can to 'stem the tide'. In the Spring of 2020 (lockdown), I discovered the EcoEgg detergent alternative. Apparently it has been around for years! I saw it as a 'special buy' in Aldi, and have been using it ever since. It was supposed to last up to fifty washes, but I went on using it well afterwards with good results.



I recently bought a refill pack of pellets from Amazon, as I haven't seen the EcoEgg on sale anywhere else. I have found it to be super-efficient for most washing situations, though I still have to use stain remover products for stubborn marks.

The plastic egg has holes in it and is filled (half full) with mineral pellets. These activate once wet and roll around inside the egg to create a natural detergent that permeates the washing. It is very economical, as well as eco-friendly.

## OUR CENTENARY: ROYAL RECOGNITION



*MFWI was thrilled to receive a letter of congratulations on the occasion of our centenary, from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.*

The initial pack with including the egg cost me under £5, however, the refill pellets cost the same from Amazon, who were selling the whole package for £10—prices ever going up!

If we can save that energy use as well as stemming the tide against pollution from microplastics, I think it's worth it!

*We'd love to know about other innovative 'eco' products you've tested, from bamboo toothbrushes to beeswax jar covers and shampoo alternatives. Maybe you shared idea within your WIs for Big Green Week?*

*Please let us know!*





## HARLINGTON

Anna East

This was our first real in person WI meeting since March 2020 and it felt really good to be back. It was however in our new temporary venue, Hayes and Harlington Community Centre, where we shall carry on until we get back to Harlington Hospice, hopefully in the New Year.

We decided to have an 'active' group activity to celebrate benefits of an in-person meeting, and it was a busy evening. We had a flower arranging session, with initial guidelines and sample from Sarah regarding use of oasis, tape, placement, height of flowers in relation to size of container.

What was produced were beautiful displays using garden grown and bought flowers with such individual flair and colour choices. Sarah gave everyone feedback on their constructions.

We have plans for a Pride-themed Games evening in September and speaker for October. We're really getting back into 'old format'.

## LALEHAM

Chris Walker

Our August meeting is traditionally our Tea Party, and this year was no exception. The branch signed up for the *Breast Cancer Now* campaign and members enjoyed a great evening out while supporting this great cause.

As well as enjoying a lavish display of sandwiches, cakes and prosecco, £205 was raised for the campaign with members playing bingo, Games of Scones and Guess the name of the Teddy Bear with some lovely prizes.





## ASHFORD

Helen Beecham

Oh what a joy to meet in person and see other members of the group!

At long last we were able to have our monthly meeting as a physical meeting. Zoom has been wonderful to keep us in touch but there's nothing like a face to face meeting. Over 30 met in the park and took advantage of the gorgeous sunny evening to chat.

Smiling faces were testament to what it meant to be together. We were able to see friends and meet some of our new members.

It's a plethora of riches as we're also now able to meet in Fordbridge Centre on a Thursday morning for craft, book club, coffee and board games sessions.

Friendship Day was celebrated by leaving small gifts around the town to be collected by the lucky finders. A

member's grandson enjoyed helping to place the gifts.

Now that we are getting back together Deborah will no longer be writing the newsletter that has kept us entertained and sane through the difficult days of Covid. Our heartfelt thanks go to her for those 200 letters.

The tablecloth embroidered by members was displayed in the Cow Byre exhibition of Middlesex crafts and was worth a visit.





## WEST EALING

Julia Lewis

### Lockdown Book Club

So... no more going out and here we were determined to carry on. Reading was however something we could all do.

Our problem was that not everyone either could or would Zoom.

We did have most members in a WhatsApp group but the decision was to try a 'round the table' email session (bring your own drinks!!).

The idea would be to write up your review and then on the day cut and paste in turn. The 'host' chose the running order based on who said they would join in and it was our normal Monday evening at 7.30pm once a month.

Sometimes the reviews were very slow to appear but we waited and one could read them all and then free to comment at the end. We always give marks out of 10; sometimes a book is harrowing and yet still deserves a mark of 8.

We kept this up over the many weary lockdown months. Christmas 2020 we

held a joint 'phone-in' which cheered us all up and surprisingly easy as we could recognise each others voices well and were very polite and did not interrupt each other too much!

Then, at last, we could meet in the pub garden and we were noisy enough to drown out the football tellies because it was so good to see each other again. This photo is our second outdoor meet. Our club is 12 to 17 folk who come along whenever they can and some send their written review if they cannot be there, and so we go from strength to strength.

