



# Middlesex News

## March 2022

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

### Chair's Chat

Lorraine  
Reed-Wenman

Hello everyone and from me, a sad farewell. This is my last Chair's Chat before I stand down at the March 2022 Annual Council Meeting following a four-year term of office.

The past year has been a disappointing time as we have not been able to take you through a planned celebratory milestone of our centenary year due to one restriction or another.

I wish all the very best to whoever is appointed your new Chair. The decision will be made after the ACM on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, by the Board of Trustees (without me present) as per the constitution, so I cannot let you know who that will be.

I had no intention or aspiration for the role of Chair and my first year was a very steep learning curve as can happen when starting a new job, and there was a lot on the 'to do' list, so I hit the road running. To be honest, I had no idea how I was going to fit everything in, given my existing commitments, and was surprised at my nomination. I need not have worried as I had a very supportive team in both Sarah Endersby as Treasurer and Jules Hall as Vice-Chair.



I cannot thank them enough for helping us to move MFWI into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, making us more eco along the way, and a lot more efficient across the Federation and within WIs. Digitally, there are very few WIs which do not use their officer emails and SharePoint now. For those still floundering, it is beneficial and is a great help, especially as new officers are voted in.

I have not been flavour of the month at times and I have had to wear many hats along the way as covid and other circumstances within MFWI dictated, Federation Secretary being one of them. This made for some very long hours, but if you care about what you do, none of that matters. It is also about doing what is best overall.

I am looking forward to getting back to a lifestyle which is my 'normal' and to get back to more crafting. Thank you to all for making the past four years memorable in more ways than one.

Take care, keep well and see you at some point in the future.

Lorraine x

### 2022 MFWI ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday 9  
March 2022**

10.15-12.30

To book for this online meeting, Click here for [Trybooking link](#).



Guest speaker  
Petra Wenham

Petra, a member of Cake and Revolution WI in Suffolk, was the first openly transgender WI member to appear on the cover of WI Life magazine. Petra will share her personal story and her work as a speaker and trans activist.



Jules, Sarah and Lorraine at the 2019 ACM

## WI BIRTHDAYS



### Happy Birthday to WIs celebrating in March

Ruislip Evening	04 March 2011
Gothic Valley	08 March 2012
Field Dames	09 March 2015
Teddington	09 March 2011
Hampton Tudor Rose	14 March 2017
Harlington	22 March 1932
Norwood Green	25 March 1985

## HAVE YOUR SAY

The WI aims to be an organisation of choice for all women, building on our past successes and the strength of our current membership and influence to ensure a sustainable and strong future for the WI. This is your organisation and we want to hear your views and your experience of the WI so we can continually improve and develop what we offer.

If you'd like to share your views, please complete the feedback form on our website which includes an overview of our vision statements:

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/give-your-feedback>

**WE WANT TO  
HEAR FROM YOU!**

## 200+ CLUB

### JANUARY 2022 WINNERS

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

**1st prize - £35**

Stanwell WI

**2nd prize - £20**

Dianne Butler, Stanwell

**3rd prize - £15**

Sunbury on Thames WI

## 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 remains 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**.....[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)

**ACWW** Lorraine Reed-Wenman .....[acwwrep@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:acwwrep@mfwi.org.uk)  
**CRAFT** Lorraine Reed-Wenman .....[craft@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:craft@mfwi.org.uk)  
**DIGITAL TEAM** .....[digitalteam@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:digitalteam@mfwi.org.uk)  
**IT Support** .....[it@wisupport.org.uk](mailto:it@wisupport.org.uk)  
**MCS** .....[mcs@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:mcs@mfwi.org.uk)  
**MEMBERSHIP** Gerry Attias .....[membershipenquiries@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:membershipenquiries@mfwi.org.uk)  
**NEWSLETTER** Emma Watson .....[newsletter@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mfwi.org.uk)  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS** .....[publicaffairs@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@mfwi.org.uk)  
**SCIENCE & LEISURE** Alison Fremantle.....[scienceandleisure@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:scienceandleisure@mfwi.org.uk)  
**SPEAKERS DIRECTORY** Michelle Gordon .....[speakers@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:speakers@mfwi.org.uk)  
**WEBSITE** Emma Watson.....[website@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:website@mfwi.org.uk)

## MIDDLESEX NEWS NEEDS YOU!

Please send articles (maximum 150 words please) and photos (largest size possible) 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 printed copies is £1.00 per copy, and for the 2022-23 subscription year there will be ten issues.

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.*



## Thank you...

Emma Watson  
Editor, Middlesex News

This issue of *Middlesex News* marks the 33rd issue since I took over production of our monthly newsletter from Lorraine in May 2019. I couldn't believe Lorraine would be editing the newsletter while carrying out the duties of Chair—so raised my hand to help out. It's been a journey!

Whilst you see Lorraine's Chair's Chat each month, she is there behind each issue with ideas, checking and proofreading, and most of all providing much-appreciated moral support without fail, when we've both been busy with other commitments or occasional flagging energy at deadline time.

Thank you so much Lorraine for your support, friendship and (never-ending!) humour as we piece together this lil' archive of activities of our Federation. It's been a joy to work with you on it and whilst I will miss our little team, I feel certain you will enjoy a break from this aspect of your MFWI role. Thank you, and best wishes Lorraine!



*Trustees enjoyed a recent catch-up: a welcome break from Zoom and a chance for some of us to meet in person for the first time!*

*From left: Julia Lewis, Sarah Endersby, Lorraine Reed-Wenman, Emma Watson, Alison Fremantle, Heather McIntyre.*

## Farewell Lorraine...

Sarah Endersby,  
MFWI Treasurer

When the 2018 MFWI Annual Council meeting finished, and the Board of Trustees met to vote in a new chair, little did we know what a challenging role Lorraine would be taking on.

During her tenure as chair, a new technology, Microsoft 365, has been introduced, to make our roles more streamlined, new trustees encouraged to join our Board and we've had two years of uncertainty with enforced lockdowns with no Federation Secretary in

place. Lorraine has continued without faltering to be responsive to all of our members, has promoted MFWI at every opportunity and most importantly has been incredibly supportive to her fellow Board members.

I know Lorraine will welcome the time to spend with her family, without having to deal with WI issues at short notice however, I am positive she will miss the network of colleagues and friends she has frequent contact with, but not as much as we will miss her.

On a personal note - thank you Lorraine for not only being our chair for an amazing four-year rollercoaster but for being a true friend.



## CENTENARY BANNER

Our centenary banner is nearing completion: here's a work in progress image from the MFWI office where the Craft team has been laying out the contributions from WIs.

And—shhhh—You've not sent yours in yet? We look forward to receiving it as every WI is an important part of Middlesex Federation!





Image: tomway.co.uk

## GREENFORD

Trish Quinlan

We enjoyed the company of Wildlife Photographer, Tom Way for a second visit.

He is based in Buckinghamshire and travels the world in search of perfect wildlife photographs which involves days and sometimes weeks of patience waiting for that 'perfect shot'. This may involve lurking in tall grass for hares, sitting in the river looking for voles or hiding up trees but the results are fantastic.

His last talk was mainly his exploits in Africa in search of big game with amazing close ups of lions, leopards, elephants and gorillas but this time he concentrated on UK wildlife with shots of red deer in Scotland and a plethora of

wonderful bird close ups, including puffins, owls and birds of prey.

He also sells cards of his photos and amidst the oohs and aahs from the audience at his cute array of animals, he was certainly a resounding success.



## Memories of 2021...

On 5 July we were lucky enough to have our planned garden party in tribute to the NHS 73rd Birthday.

A fine buffet of sandwiches and home made cakes graced our table at the Outdoor Centre and a safe and sociable environment for our members was enjoyed. Our main NHS cake was kindly made by a member's daughter.

Most of us had come through the last 18 months unscathed and hopes were high for a return to many more WI occasions. We hope all is well with other WIs and look forward to seeing the rest of our members soon.



## Craft Sale and Coffee Morning

MFWI Office

Thurs 7 April, 10.00-13.00

Sat 9 April, 10.00-15.00

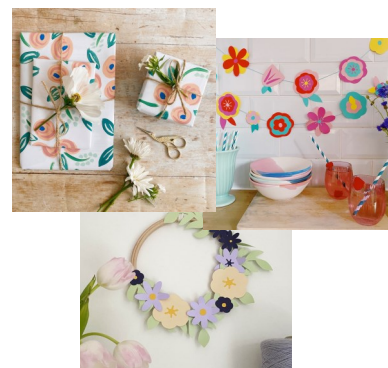


We're clearing out surplus craft supplies, and opening the doors of the MFWI office for members to pop in for a coffee. Have a rummage through everything from paper craft supplies to fabric oddments—you never know what you'll find!

## Craft ideas on My WI

Have you checked out the MyWI craft blog and project archive? There are all sorts of pretty inspirations for spring including these paper craft ideas:

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/interests/craft>



## Dabble Days

**As the name suggests, *Dabble Days* are the time to try out new things. You will be able to try some crafts that you may not have come across, did not know about or did not want to spend money on in case you did not like it!**

Fee includes any materials for the crafts listed.  
Where there are limited places, it is 'first come first served'.

Tea/coffee will be available for you and you need to bring a packed lunch if required.

**Booking is essential for all craft sessions.**

Cheques payable to Middlesex Federation of Womens Institutes (Craft Committee)

Bank transfers: MFWI Craft Committee.  
Sort Code: 20-27-49; Account: 53587703.

**Queries and bookings**

Email [craft@mfwl.org.uk](mailto:craft@mfwl.org.uk) or call Lorraine on 01895 676 105 or call/text on 07976 398 533

Note that planned sessions are subject to change: we ask you to book to help us plan

## MFWI OFFICE WEST DRAYTON

Thursdays 10.30-15.30

*Members only*

*Fee payable in advance or on the day*

24 March

### Slate Painting

£6

21 April

### Hand-sewn pot holder

£6

23 June

### Silk Painting

£10

28 July

### Needle Felting Animal

£10

25 August

### Quilling

£6

29 September

### Block Printing

£8

27 October

### Stitched Cards

£6

## EASTCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE RUISLIP

Saturdays 14.00-17.00

*All women welcome*

*Fee payable in advance*

26 March

### Needle Felting

£10

23 April

### Sashiko Sewing

£12

25 June

### Beading Tapestry

£12

30 July

### Cathedral Window Patchwork

£8

20 August

### Block Printing

£10

29 October

### Silk Scarves

£16

26 November

### Rag Wreaths

£10



## Craft Inn



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

**19:30, every Monday**

**Zoom link**

Meeting ID: 852 8335 4467

Passcode: 358099



## Crafty Pop+Ins



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

**13:00, first Thursday of the month**

**Zoom link**

Meeting ID: 879 0513 1326

Passcode: 405027





## STROUD GREEN

Angeline Leung

Upcycling and recycling was the theme of our December meeting as we enjoyed making Christmas decorations, gift bags and cards with excellent guidance from Leila Khasal (pictured).

Here's a selection of those made in person at *Mind* (our venue) and also by those following from home via Zoom. It was our first time trying to livestream a craft activity rather than a talk.

We were so happy to be back with our cake stall at the Crouch End Christmas Fair—our thanks to organiser Patsy for the opportunity.



Wonderful to see everyone who stopped by and hopefully there will be other opportunities this year, so do look out for us! Grateful thanks to all our members for their time and efforts spent organising, baking and helping on the day.

## SOUTHBOURNE

Barbara Betterton

After a warm welcome from the new President, members attending December's meeting were given a Christmas table quiz, on Christmas carols.

Homemade mince pies were amongst the treats to have with our wine and fruit juice. A table was adorned with a selection of handmade items skilfully made by the craft group. Santa socks, Christmas puds, angels, tree decorations and an assortment of various gifts and tags. We then played a round of Handbag Bingo, which bought lots of laughter as everyone emptied their handbags.

On leaving, all members were given a Christmas goody bag from our President and we wished a Merry Christmas to one and all.

January's meeting was in a different hall as the one we normally use is undergoing refurbishment.



A minute's silence was held in memory of our dear member Bobby Loveday, who passed away on 3 January 2022 aged 102: lovely lady who will be sorely missed.

Our speaker was Sandra Ebbetts from The House of Colour. She spoke about being adventurous with colours, styles and accessories. Having your skin tone analysed opens up a whole new world of style and colour. Sandra was friendly and her presentation was good. Members were impressed. Tea and coffee followed and there was lots of chatter as the raffle was drawn. A good start to the new year!



## STANWELL

Jill Treeves

### Valerie Turner 1933-2022

Stanwell WI was sad to hear of the passing of one of their long-term members, Valerie Turner. She had served as our president for several years over three separate occasions and had served on the committee until fairly recently. Valerie was also an active member of the local community and served on several local committees including Stanwell Village Hall and Spelthorne In Bloom. She was very community-minded and the WI was a massive part of her life. She will be sadly missed.





## LALEHAM

Chris Walker

Laleham WI had a great turnout for their first meeting of 2022. Members enjoyed catching up with each other over tea and biscuits and President, Helen Hurst brought everyone up to speed on news and events to come.

Membership also voted on the WI 2022 Resolutions.



The highlight of the evening was delivered by member June Barnard, who gave a lively and entertaining talk about her long experience as an event and trip organiser.

We enjoyed some amusing stories as well as learning a lot about what goes into making successful trips. Don't know how you do it June... but please don't stop!

Here's Judy McFarlane presiding over her Raffle prizes for the evening.



## BEDFONT BELLES

Jenny Hanrahan

Father Christmas once again heard about our Christmas party and came along to hand out the Secret Santa gifts. We enjoyed sharing the food on our buffet table and had time for a good old chat before heading home.

Our Christmas meal was organised by Chris. Thankfully Covid was kind and we went to the St. Giles Hotel in Feltham and enjoyed their Christmas set menu.

Our first meeting of the year was an enjoyable and informative talk by Russell Bowes, a garden historian, entitled *Say it with Poison* in which he described, very theatrically, many plants which we may have in our gardens which can be used for dubious purposes.



## Social Media Workshop

**NEW DATE**

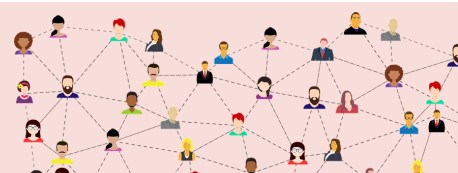
Saturday 26 March 2022

11:00-13:00

Workshop will be held on Zoom; details will be sent out prior to the session.

Please register your interest at [secretary@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mfwi.org.uk)

*Get started and build your confidence on social media*



With apologies for the inconvenience, the Membership Committee has decided to change the date of its Social Media Workshop, previously scheduled for Saturday 5 March.

As well as its stated purpose, this workshop is also a opportunity for our Trainee Adviser Fiona Doyle (President, Stow Roses WI) to fulfil some of her training requirements—and we are keen to give her all the help we can!

Existing registrants have already been notified by e-mail, and if any other members are interested in attending, please e-mail [secretary@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mfwi.org.uk).





## RUISLIP EVENING

Sandria Channon

Our WI meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the GAA Club, McGovern Park, was our Christmas meeting. Many members wore Christmas jumpers and hats making the evening feel festive.

Dorothy and Lorraine provided various Christmas craft items, many of them recycled, for us to make a Christmas tree ornament and with advice and a demonstration to give us ideas we enjoyed making our own, while we chatted and had tea organised by Linda. Cheese, biscuits, chocolates, and mince pies were enjoyed by all.

Lesley made and donated a delicious Christmas cake for us to guess the weight -

won by Hazel. A book swap was also available.

The second part of our evening organised by Lorna was a presentation from Helen Astrid, who runs a singing academy in Twickenham, on the history of Christmas carols. Carols date back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, and many of our favourite carols were mentioned together with their history.

Singing carols became popular in the Victorian times. Christmas carols, as opposed to Christmas songs, usually have a religious basis. Each of the items mentioned in the 12 days of Christmas was a metaphor for a bible story, the tree being God's true love and the partridge, Jesus.

Helen had hoped to join us in person but still managed to join us on Zoom while we sung carols, *Once in Royal David's City*, *Silent Night*, and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*: a lovely start to the Christmas Season. We finished the evening with member-donated gifts for a raffle.

Many thanks to Lorna who organised our Christmas meal at the Ascott in Eastcote where we had a very good meal and very pleasant evening with friends; it was so nice to be able to have a little normality in these difficult times.

REWI wishes everyone a happy & healthy 2022.

*Below: samples of recent crafting adventures by REWI.*

