



Middlesex News

April 2022

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chair's Chat

Angela Chessman

Well, what a month that was! After an excellent Annual Council Meeting, here I am—the new Chair for Middlesex Federation. Thank you—I think!—to my fellow Board members for your votes.

The first thing I would like to say is a massive thank you to Lorraine Reed-Wenman, our outgoing Chair, for everything she has done over the last four years.

Lorraine remained in office for an 'extra' year to steer our Centenary celebrations, but unfortunately the Covid situation meant that we were unable to arrange the events that we had been planning.

Lorraine also had to deal with helping our wonderful WIs to keep going through lockdowns, social distancing and all the other restrictions we have all been facing over the last two years. Not an easy job!

Although we had to cancel our planned activities, I am sure some of you have been celebrating with your own WIs—and hopefully there are more celebrations to come!

Don't forget to let us know what you have been up to—and send some pictures! *Middlesex News* would love to hear from you.

As mentioned, our Council Meeting was well attended and we had a thought-provoking talk from Petra



Wenham from Suffolk Federation – more details later in the magazine.

The Resolution for this year has been chosen: 'Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD—under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported'. Please discuss this with your WIs; your delegate will need to know how you want them to vote at the Annual Meeting! You will also need to let them know if they have your permission to change that vote if they are persuaded by the arguments on the day!

Hopefully, the weather will start improving now and with Easter coming, are you getting crafty? There is a Craft sale (and coffee morning) at County Office on Thursday 7th April and Saturday 9th April. Why not come along – you might find just what you are looking for.

I am sure many of you will be organising your own celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee; let's hope for some lovely sunny weather in June. Have you seen the pattern for [Winnie the corgi](#) in March *WI Life*? Who has been busy knitting?

I am really looking forward to the next few months and I hope to be able to meet with some of you soon, but please get in touch with me or any of the Board if we can be of any help—it's what we are here for.

Take care

Angela

Craft Sale & 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!

Newsletter deadlines >>> see page 2

WI BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to WIs celebrating in April

De Beauvoir	3 April 2015
Sunbury on Thames	15 April 1980
East End	16 April 2007

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

FEBRUARY 2022 WINNERS

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

1st prize - £35

West Drayton WI

2nd prize - £20

Pat Hook, Hillingdon

3rd prize - £15

Trish Quinlan, Greenford

GET IN TOUCH

COUNTY OFFICE

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Tel: 01895 440161

Email: 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.***

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WE NEED YOU!

Please send articles (maximum 150 words please) and photos (largest size possible, as separate attachments, please) to Emma at newsletter@mfwi.org.uk. Articles received after the deadline are unlikely to be included due to production deadlines. Sometimes space limitations mean we may hold articles over to the following issue.

Deadlines

* May 2022 issue: 15 April

* June 2022 issue: 20 May

* July/August 2022 issue: 17 June

Printed copies?

The cost of printed copies is £1.00 per copy, and for the 2022-23 subscription year there will be ten issues. A PDF copy is sent to all officers and members with an email address at no charge.

The newsletter is also available on the [MFWI website](https://www.mfwi.org.uk) 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.



Annual Council Meeting 2022

Emma Watson

For the third year running, our Middlesex Federation Annual Council Meeting was held online, following a poll of our members. It was disappointing for us as we hoped to begin or end our centenary year in person, however we were pleased to have a healthy turnout online.

Outgoing Chair Lorraine Reed-Wenman, in her final ACM, welcomed Zoom attendees and spoke of the challenges of the past year and her period as Chair as a whole, while Treasurer Sarah Endersby presented the Financial Report.

We were very pleased to welcome an excellent speaker, **Petra Wenham**, a member of Cake and Revolution WI in

Ipswich, Suffolk. Petra was the first openly transgender WI member to appear on the cover of [WI Life magazine](#) (July-Aug 2021). Petra shared her personal journey, of coming out to her wife Lorraine in 2015, to living full-time as a woman in 2018, and joining the WI.

We hope you enjoyed the meeting if you were able to attend, but very much hope for a fabulous in-person meeting in 2023!

Above: Some of Zoom attendees; guest speaker Petra Wenham.

Right: Trustees for 2022-23, plus outgoing Chair Lorraine Reed-Wenman, incoming Chair Angela Chessman, Maggie Eccleston of Hertfordshire Federation, and recently co-opted Trustees Liz Alcock and Sarah McCulloch.

Congratulations, Angela!

Following the ACM, the Board of Trustees, without departing Chair Lorraine, continued the online meeting to elect a Chair to lead us through the next three years, assisted by Hertfordshire Federation Trustee Maggie Eccleston. We congratulate Angela Chessman on her appointment!

Angela, a member of Stanwell WI, was co-opted onto the Board in 2016, enjoying her role as Denman Ambassador while Denman College was operating. More recently she ran the 200+ Club.

Good luck Angela: we wish you well for your term as Chair!



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WOMEN AT COP26

Clare Taylor

As I'm sure most readers will know, NFWI was at COP 26 in November 2021. That wasn't the end of a story, but the beginning of a new chapter—the UK is president until next November and there is still plenty of opportunity to put pressure on the Government to do what's needed. The WI is keeping the momentum going—we had *Show the Love* in February, there will be the *Great Big Green Week* in September and NFWI and WI Climate Ambassadors are continuing with activism, craftivism and events.

The WI was not the only women's group present: there were many gender-focused events. Not only does climate change have disproportionate impacts on women and girls around the world, but women are important as leaders in their various communities.

One organisation, the [Malala Fund](#), organised an event about education. Its report says, "In 2021 alone, climate change impacts will prevent four million girls from completing their education. If current trends continue, by 2025 climate change will be a contributing factor in preventing at least 12.5 million girls from completing their education each year."

In the areas most affected by climate change, families will often take girls out of school to help cope with chores or to marry them off. Yet Malala's research has found that every additional year girls spend in school leads to a significant improvement in the country's resilience to climate events.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Met Office hosted an event on *What women bring to climate science*. This showed some of the outcomes of education for girls via a panel of very senior female scientists from global organisations involved in meteorology

and climate change. They discussed why diversity is essential for climate science, the importance of equality in education and how to ensure representation from those countries most affected. There is a recording on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/zt4MHDNVYHQ>

One key subject is the importance of mentoring and role models, to give younger women and girls the courage to step forward into the sciences, being supportive of them and of collaborative approaches to leadership to make this happen.

Empowering women is, of course, very much part of the WI's ethos. There is a lot we can do, each in our own way.

The website <https://unfccc.int/gender> has an overview of gender and climate change with lots of interesting links.

The WI climate action pages are [here](#).



GREENFORD

Trish Quinlan

Greenford Evening WI has now had two sessions painting 'holocaust stones' Although mostly amateurs, I think you'll agree that everyone used their artistic imagination to contribute these 'foundation stones' to the memorial being built near Victoria Embankment to all genocides, not only the Holocaust.

We look forward to visiting the site when complete and hopefully have made a small contribution to the Jewish tradition of placing stones on graves in remembrance, in this case to those lost to genocide.



Hampton Court Palace guide Sarah Slater is a popular speaker with the WI, and recently three of our WIs, Greenford, Hayes Town and Sunbury-on-Thames, had the pleasure of one of her entertaining talks and share their reports here.

Our February speaker Sarah Slater gave her popular presentation *Kirtles, Corsets & Curtains*, on costume design through the ages. Sarah decided to make her own costumes for her guiding work, and after much painstaking work, her results are amazing (her first effort of a red dress was made from purloined silk curtains). The Victorian ritual of mourning for two years and one day would require a black dress as in the one she is wearing in the photo.

She brought along her mannequin which she dressed, demonstrating the layers involved in a Victorian ladies' outfit, a far cry from the speed we dress today.

The presentation showed how fashions have ranged from kirtles (a forerunner of the corset) bustles, crinolines and the straighter lines of the 20s and 30s and the 60s mini skirt.



HAYES TOWN

Gill Wildman

Secrets, Sex ,Scandals & Salacious Gossip of the Tudor Court 1660-1830 was our February talk by Sarah Slater. Sarah makes all her own costumes, so comes appropriately dressed, though couldn't wear all the petticoats as she wouldn't be able to drive in one of our modern day cars!

We were in for a fun but rude afternoon, with a lot history. Women's rights have certainly come a long way since *Harris's List of Covent Garden Ladies for the Man-of-Pleasure 1757-1795*, a publication which sold 8000 copies!

We then moved on to sheaths using animal intestines and wooden dildos (yikes... splinters!) which caused some grinning & raised eyebrows! All too soon it was time for a cuppa and cake, and yes, planning an outing to Hampton Court to see Sarah in action.

Our March meeting will be an Easter Hat Craft Competition with Wendy supplying the materials to inspire your imagination!



SUNBURY-ON -THAMES

Barbara Draper

The Sunbury on Thames WI meeting held on 24 February at Squires Garden Centre was very well attended despite the cold wind and hail. At times the noise on the plastic roof was so loud the speakers on the top table could not be heard.

As usual, it was business first, then after a short break for a welcome cup of tea a biscuit and an excellent number of raffle prizes it was the turn of our guest speaker, Sarah Slater, who enlightened us with the subject of *Ghosts of Hampton Court*. Dressed suitably for the presentation and with plenty of interesting slides the talk was most entertaining.



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@mfw.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

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

24 November

Candle Decorating

£8

EASTCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE RUISLIP

Saturdays 14.00-17.00

All women welcome

Fee payable in advance

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

17 December

Candle Decorating

£12



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: 844 3566 4863

Passcode: 574403



ASHFORD

Carol Coleman

Hearts were the order of the day at this month's Ashford WI craft meeting. Our Craft and Fundraising committee members put together kits for some of our ladies to make WI *Show the Love Hearts*. There was much hilarity as members got glued up and sticky on various decorations and trimmings. The results were fabulous as you can see in the picture.

This activity is just one in a host of things we have done during the past few months. Our calendar of weekly events includes book club, coffee mornings, board game mornings, play reading and knit and natter groups: plenty of diverse activities for all our members to share in.

The groups are open to all our members and we regularly get 25 members or more attending. This is all on top of our regular monthly meeting which we are at last holding face-to-face after almost two years of Zoom. Ashford WI is definitely going well.



GREENFIELDE

Christine Chambers

At our last meeting we had an afternoon called 'Blast from the Past'. We asked our members to bring in either old items or items of interest to view, identify and chat about. Most of them we readily identified but a couple had us puzzled. Fortunately the member who brought in one of them knew what it was. The other mystery item has posed us a problem. The owner was hoping that one of our members could identify it but it has stumped us all.

It is a small tool with a wooden grip in centre and what looks like stainless steel awls at each end (see picture). We think it may be an awl for leatherwork, or a modeller's tool. If any of our readers has a similar one or can definitely identify it we would be so grateful to know what it is: let us know!



Above, Greenfield's 'Blast from the Past' items, and below, the mystery tool: can you identify it for them?



HAMPTON TUDOR ROSE

Linda Frise

Police visit... of the welcoming kind!

John Murray (Police Liaison Officer) and three officers from the local Hampton ward in Richmond upon Thames joined us to talk about violence against women and the Met's new initiative, 'Go Girl', which advises women on precautions to feel safer when out and about: plan your journey, walk tall and trust your instincts.



They also spoke about the expansion of 'Ask for Angela' into outlets like pharmacies, phone security, and scams. This was followed by a lively Q&A session and sharing of members' experiences.

LALEHAM

Chris Walker

Laleham WI met for its February meeting and was treated to a fascinating talk by Pete Allen: *The History of British Television Crime Fighters*.

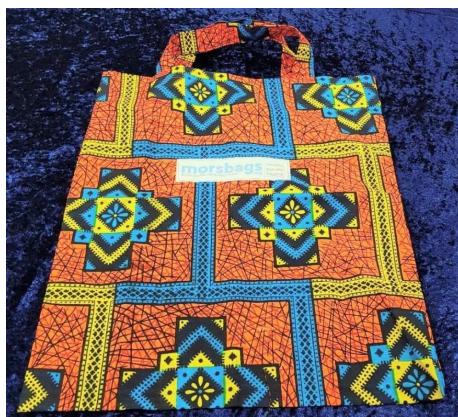


Pete delivered an entertaining presentation taking members through the various decades

of TV detectives and how the genre has developed over the years.

The evening was rounded off with the monthly raffle and some lovely prizes; congratulations to Lisa and Anna who were among the lucky winners this month.





RUISLIP EVENING

Sandy Channon

For our January meeting our REWI committee had planned to provide each of our members with recycled materials to make a [Mors bag](#) and a green heart, but Covid figures meant we had to meet on Zoom.

However, ever resourceful, members of the committee cut and delivered a package, together with instructions, to each of our members to enable them to make the bag and a heart to bring to our February meeting.

Our members did not disappoint and created a wonderful selection of over 20 Mors bags.

Our 'pennies' competition with a 'green' theme had items from home grown kale and broccoli to green bottles containing plants and liquids. The winner was an amazing, knitted green crocodile (see last month's *Middlesex News* for photos).

Votes were made on our charity for the year, and which resolution we would support. We also revisited bunting showing our pledges from three years ago, many members having achieved their objective to reduce waste.

Tea, biscuits, an interesting eco quiz and raffle completed the evening.



SOUTHBOURNE

Jackie Head

Laughter, scarves and music...

I don't think anyone thought that chair aerobics could be so exhausting and fun. Arms and legs going in all directions... The warm-up was tiring, let alone the rest!

Our guest this week was Amie Read who took us through 45 minutes of chair aerobics. We were in a different hall this month due to our regular one being refurbished. There was more than enough room for us to spread out so we didn't knock anyone out.

We were able to choose the music which ranged from Elvis to ABBA. Anyone who needed a rest or chose not to do specific exercises were still able to enjoy listening/singing to the music.



Bobby Loveday 1919-2022

Rose Watson

Southbourne WI was saddened to hear of the passing of our oldest member Bobby. She turned 102 on Christmas Eve 2021 and it seemed only yesterday that in our December meeting in 2019 we were celebrating her 100th birthday, and Bobby danced around the floor to *Happy Birthday*.

To us she was always known as Bobby; very few knew that her real name was Doris. I spent the past two years visiting her every other week where we chatted and she told me of her eventful life.

Born in the Medway towns, Bobby served as a nurse serving throughout WW2. She was working with the RAF in Cyprus, when she met and married her husband Noel and their daughter was born.

When Noel died in 1982, Bobby then moved from Ealing to close to her daughter and family in Eastcote. She became a Southbourne WI member in 1988, serving as President for eight years. She attended many WI events with both Middlesex and National Federations. For many years she greeted all our members at each monthly meeting and was a regular at our weekly craft group. She loved to knit, even though her sight was failing.

Up until the last few years she walked the mile into Eastcote to shop. During lockdown she had a fall and finally last April became bed-bound. On 19 December 2021 she became a great-grandmother for the second time and the last picture I saw of her was her holding her great-grandson with her great-granddaughter standing beside her.

She was always a friendly face who liked to chat to everyone, and an inspiration to us all.



Getting to know...

MANORS FARM

Enid Welsh

Manors Farm is the only afternoon WI in the west Middlesex area. We meet in the mediaeval centre of Ruislip, in a 'quaint' hut with a large car park right outside.

We are a group of retired ladies (from work not life!). Our regular speakers' topics have included 'Women who murder', Macular Degeneration, Scams, Stained Glass, Climate Change—all followed by lively discussions.

We have a varied programme arranged for 2022.

Our monthly day trips, with minibus and driver, have taken us from Audley End to Waddesdon, Beth Chatto's garden to RHS Wisley. We cover history, horticulture and code deciphering (at Bletchley Park).

We have a lunch club when, within Ruislip WI, we tour the world from Thailand westwards to Jamaica. It was Turkey in February! Not all the restaurants have survived covid, but we're still going. Despite the restrictions we kept most of our members in April 2021 and succeeded in electing a new President and Treasurer via postal AGM.

We started meeting again in July 2021, and in September we held our 49th birthday party, so we are now planning our half century celebrations.

Manors Farm Women's Institute meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1.45pm at

**Manors Farm Hall,
(St Martins' approach Car Park), Ruislip,
HA4 7QL.**



STANWELL

Jill Treeves

Stanwell WI has started a monthly coffee morning for anyone in the local community. This is held in one of the local village halls on the second Wednesday of the month.

In February we hosted a quiz night to raise money for Spelthorne In Bloom, which funds hanging baskets around the village. We also held a raffle during the evening and enjoyed a fish and chip supper before getting stuck into the quiz—who knew a giraffe can clean its own ears with its tongue?!



BEDFONT BELLES

Jenny Hanrahan

Our February meeting was a fun evening of crafting, chatting and cake eating. On a 'Valentines' theme, members could choose from various materials prepared by our amazing committee and could make a robin or heart with endless possibilities.

Crafting was accompanied by cakes made by our president Jennie, while Janice Keningale snapped the photos.

Plans were made for trips out and the celebration of our Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Several members joined Lorraine for another Dabble Day. This time we dabbled in Sashiko, Japanese embroidery. These days are very much enjoyed, not only for the crafting, but also for the friendly banter and meeting new friends from other WIs.

WEST DRAYTON

Kay Crone

At our February meeting, West Drayton WI members were able to join in with a Zumba Gold taster session which was led by Ann Stevens.

Members took advantage of this and joined in as everyone could take part either standing or sitting, and it was enjoyed by all.

Tea served afterwards was very much appreciated.

