



# Middlesex News

## July/August 2022

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

### Chair's Chat

Angela Chessman

Hello everyone

Well, I hope you all enjoyed the Jubilee weekend. Wasn't it great to see all of the banners and bunting – and I don't think I have ever seen so many 'Queen Elizabeths' in so many different places!

And what about the street parties—for some people bringing back memories of the Silver Jubilee (!)—the number of road closures were testament to how much we all just wanted to celebrate!

I would love to know how many tea parties were held over the Jubilee weekend. Did you have one? Please send us your photos for Middlesex News so that we can enjoy the celebrations all over again!

It was good to see some of you at the Annual Meeting in Liverpool and it was also good to get together with members from all over the country.

Several of us travelled from Middlesex; thank you all for attending and for your company in the evening. It was great to meet up with so many Middlesex members and find out what was going on in your WIs.

I think the hybrid meeting was a great success, allowing members who couldn't get to Liverpool to enjoy and take part in the proceedings—and I was right, Jerusalem really did send shivers down the spine!

It was interesting to hear from the President of the [Scottish Women's Institutes](#), Anne Kerr, and the Federation Chairman of the [Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland](#), Margaret Broome.

The Chair told us that she doesn't cook, bake, do crafts or flower arranging so jokingly questioned whether she should be in the WI at all! Of course we all know that you don't need to do these things to enjoy the WI and all it has to offer—the WI is what you want it to be.

This year's resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority. The speakers 'for' the resolution made their points with real passion and even the 'against' speaker wasn't against the actual Resolution, just possibly the specific wording.



My WI will have information on how you can support this resolution in your own WIs.

The first main speaker, Kate Garbers, gave a sobering talk on the modern slave trade and reminded us that victims of this dreadful trade are potentially all around us, hidden in plain sight.

The second speaker was Sarah Clarke OBE, the first female Black Rod in its 650-year history; she has also held several other 'first woman' posts and worked in senior roles in various sports organisations. Well done to National Office for securing such interesting guests. You can also read Trustee Julia Lewis's report on page 3, and see a few of photos of our team in Liverpool!

Next year's meeting will be in Cardiff; it would be good to see you there.

As a Federation, we are hoping in the future to start arranging some events for you to get involved in, so look out for your Middlesex News each month for more information.

As I am writing this, the sun is shining and the temperature is rising—let's hope Summer is here!

Hope you all have an enjoyable month.

*Angela*

**Newsletter deadlines >>> see page 2**

## WI BIRTHDAYS



*There are no WIs  
celebrating celebrating  
birthdays in July or August*

## HILLINGDON

Christine Newell

On Wednesday 8 June, we held our monthly meeting. It was a great meeting with members that we have not seen for some time, present!

Our guest speaker John Rowe gave a very interesting talk on *Roses and Castles*. He showed us how the canal life began many years ago and where Roses and Castles come into it, with the water jugs that we still see on canal boats today.

Canals were used to transport coal, being pulled by woman and ponies. Today they are used by holiday makers to get from North to South, who want to keep away from the busy roads and trains. Also a lot of people live on the canal all year, though it can be very cold at night!! After tea and biscuits, business done, the meeting closed.

## 200+ CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of our recent **200+ Club** draws

### June 2022

1st prize - £35  
**Linda Frise,  
Hampton Tudor Rose**

2nd prize - £20  
**Lorraine Reed  
Ruislip Evening**

3rd prize - £15  
**Mary Jeffery, Stanwell**

## GET IN TOUCH

### COUNTY OFFICE

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Tel: 01895 440161  
Email: [secretary@mfwl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mfwl.org.uk)

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

CHAIR: Angela Chessman .....[chair@mfwl.org.uk](mailto:chair@mfwl.org.uk)  
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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@mfwl.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mfwl.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

- \* September issue: 19 August
- \* October issue: 23 September
- \* November issue: 21 October

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** 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.



## Julia Lewis, Trustee & West Ealing WI member

Another successful AGM with our NFWI Chair, Ann Jones hosting around 3,000 women; some at the Liverpool Conference and some on Zoom. As we know as she settles in to her role, she is always calm, excited and smiley and leads with a positive vibe and her lovely Welsh accent!



Our Honorary Treasurer Jeryl Stone reminded all to try to get Gift Aid from your subscriptions and also 'please mention leaving a legacy for WI in wills'.

We then heard from the Federation Chairman of the [Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland](#), Margaret Broome, who told us about splitting their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in to nine separate events across the region.

Anne Kerr, President of the [Scottish Women's Institutes](#), talked about having COP-26 coming there and highlighted the SWI's own campaigns for change and transformation.

Kate Garbers, founder of the anti-slavery organisation Unseen gave an excellent talk on Modern Slavery and the fact that in UK nationals make up a large proportion of the victims. Safe houses, help-lines, professional counselling etc can all be offered once a victim is identified – we need to learn the signs of this happening and Public Affairs holds support materials for

your own WI. You can ring the Police (101) or Crime Stoppers too. There are dedicated helplines – this is happening all over

the UK in so many forms. Anti-Slavery Day is on 18 October.

Our Guest Speaker was **Sarah Clarke OBE**, Black Rod, the first female Black Rod in 650 years. Moving on from managing major events career as Championship Director Wimbledon gave Sarah all the leadership tools needed for her new role.

She said that she hardly ever gives talks but knowing WI members herself, she knew she would have to accept this request!

Again, enthusiasm for the role and calmness and dedication gave her huge success at Wimbledon and to work on many other major events which carries her forward in her role today. She was most inspiring.



All of us will have considered and discussed and read our resolution on ASD/ADHD in women and girls. it was the alternative viewpoint that we maybe did not know about and an excellent talk was given discussing dependence on drugs/categorisation is not the key/remove diagnosis as a gatekeeper/lack of support services/long waiting lists and whether support is given to the right level of need of each individual. It was a brave 'against' but the audience gave huge credence to the points raised and learnt about how Devon authorities are trying new ways of approaching the diagnosis and level of needs of girls.

The 2022 resolution was carried by 96% and your own votes were cast as you requested.

## Presentations

NFWI President Ann Jones spoke about the on-going **Plastic Soup campaign** and keeping up the pressure wherever we go. She reminded us to look up the WI Handbook to gather info on all topics pertinent to each WI. Think about what you might do for WI Day in September – there is an excellent Event Calendar 2022 on [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk).

Ann reminded all that there is a recruitment competition to win £200 for the WI with the biggest recruitment success.







## SUNBURY VILLAGE & SUNBURY ON THAMES

Debbie Levy, Sunbury Village

*Tea Party success!*

On the afternoon of Saturday 21st May 2022, Sunbury Village and Sunbury on Thames WIs hosted a Platinum Jubilee Tea Party in partnership with Sunbury Neighbours for local elderly residents.

The event was held at St Mary's Parish hall, volunteers from both WIs baked, dress tables, decorated the hall, made sandwiches, served the tables and chatted to the guests.

A huge thanks goes to Shelagh Bonnichon (Sunbury Village WI member) who was a total star planning and co-ordinating the whole event, including linking in with Sunbury Neighbours and all the volunteers.



## SUNBURY VILLAGE

Debbie Levy

Sunbury Village WI took part in their Village Jubilee celebration event on the 4th June, by hosting a local cake competition. The competition was open to local people as well as WI members. The cakes were then sold to raise money for [The Sunbury Gallery development](https://www.sunbury-gallery.org.uk/).

A big thanks to Sunbury on Thames President Susan Whitworth for judging: a tough job! All the cakes were amazing to view and taste. Thanks also to Teddington WI President Sian Cooley for her entry, and to all the Sunbury Village WI members for their entries and for running the stall. The competition display was an important part of the Sunbury Village celebrations—the cakes were the talk of the meadow.

To see all the entries and results visit: <https://www.sunbury-village-wi.com/1/platinum-jubilee-cake-competition/>







## STANWELL

Dianne Butler

What a fantastic Platinum Jubilee; the whole country joined in celebration. Stanwell WI held an Afternoon Tea for its members at The Village Hall. It was excellently presented, food was plentiful and gorgeous. We were visited by Sue Doran, Stanwell WI member and Mayor of Spelthorne.



## HANWELL

Julie Winstock

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations continued at Hanwell WI when we gathered together for a festive evening of fun and frivolity.

Keen gardeners amongst us planted a tub with a beautiful display of purple scabiosa and campanula which not only brightened up the

area outside our hall but seemed to attract many bees too!

Next, we sat down to a splendid feast of homemade scones, clotted cream, jam and fresh strawberries along with a cup or two of tea.

A little later, Kim Broadbent, our President and one-time quizmaster tested our knowledge on all things royal. It's amazing how much we found we didn't know! Before too long, it was time to go home. We had had a most enjoyable and memorable evening!



## RUISLIP

Sandy Channon

Our June meeting of the Ruislip Evening WI actually fell on the Thursday of Queen's Jubilee and we planned an exciting evening to celebrate our Queen's 70 years on the throne. Our members created an amazing selection of Jubilee rag wreaths, Lesley made delicious Jubilee cupcakes to go with our tea and provided a guess the number of chocolates in a jar with donations going to our charity, and our pennies theme was blue won by a beautiful blue globe.

Bingo was played with winners receiving donated prizes of a basket full of various tea items, a karaoke machine and wine and chocolates.

The evening also included a talk from our local Harefield Dogs Trust. Although it is currently surrounded by works from HS2, the Harefield Trust is still taking in, caring for and rehoming dogs. It has 75 purpose-built glass fronted kennels with underfloor heating, six exercise paddocks and a sensory garden.

The Dogs Trust also offers advice, training, and a Canine Care scheme to take care of your dog should anything happen to you. They always need volunteers and donations. It was a very interesting informative talk from Sian.





## LALEHAM

Chris Walker

Members of Laleham WI devoted their May meeting to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and enjoyed a lively evening with bingo, quizzing and fancy dress.

This was all accompanied by a soundtrack of music spanning all the decades of Her Majesty's reign.

There was celebration cake of course, and a special Jubilee raffle with some very regal prizes.

Prizes for the best red, white and blue outfits went to Mandy and Jane.

Well done to everyone who joined in the fun!



# AROUND THE WIS

## HAYES TOWN

Gill Wildman

Our May meeting brought the impressive Berkshire Birds of Prey (based in Bracknell) to spread the word and about conservation and learn and help the birds in the wild.

The very caring, compassionate and knowledgeable Angela brought several owls starting with the pretty white faced one year old owl aptly named Bella. In the wild they live to about five years old.



Bella loves cuddles and is used a lot in therapy and mentoring as Angela is an experienced mentor to children and young adults with learning & emotional issues.

There were no problems them being passed on a sleeve to each table; it was close-up and personal, and we could appreciate the touch and feel of their pillow soft feathers!



of his 5ft wing span (what a dude!), stood so proudly on Angela's arm. In the meantime Merlin, a small cutie, native to Australia and New Zealand, was going around the room. Then it was the turn of Indi, a monkey owl with huge round eyes, mostly active at night when hunting prey.



Bertie the majestic Eagle Owl, who showed off all

I was so privileged to see them two days later at a garden birthday party, so had my turn for cuddles (not being the photographer), and even experienced a Harris Hawk on my arm (so much heavier than the lightweight owls) and to see Bella flying—awesome! I do urge other WIs to book and experience these beautiful birds: you will not be disappointed.



## STANWELL

Dianne Butler

Stanwell WI has had a very successful return to normal and has a full programme planned for the rest of the year. We have had the pleasure of visiting Stanwell Community Allotments for afternoon tea. We were really impressed with the work that has been done there and we certainly enjoyed the cakes and scones.

We held our annual Easter Coffee Morning which was well attended with a number of easter bonnets to be judged and Ruth Donovan declared the winner.

We host a monthly Community Coffee Morning at Lord Knyvett's Hall which is very well supported.



We enjoyed a VE Day meal at Brooks Restaurant at Brooklands College, Weybridge. A member's grandson is studying catering there and he and other students cook the meals. On the tables next to us were Ottershaw Nightowls WI (Surrey).

We have just celebrated our 103rd birthday with a wonderful meal organised by Mary Jeffery and her

catering crew. Sue Doran, a Stanwell member and Deputy Mayor of Spelthorne, cut the cake made by member Fiona Bird.



We attended the Spelthorne Group Meeting at St Hilda's and our President Tracey Mercer was an excellent magician's assistant!

Our Chatty Crafters meet each month and the Croquet Section have enjoyed many wonderful lunches throughout the winter. The Croquet season is underway, now meeting twice a week and we have some new members this year.

We are looking forward to the Queen's Jubilee and have afternoon tea organised for our members.



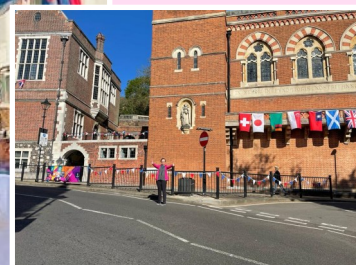
## HARROW ON THE HILL

Mary O'Connor

On Saturday 30 April, Harrow School celebrated its 450th anniversary with a community day, full of events and entertainment, in Harrow on the Hill.

Our WI was asked by the school to make 450 metres of red, white, and blue bunting, to decorate the streets. We also ran a cake stall, at the event, which raised £2,000 for the WI and our two chosen charities.

The sun shone and it was a wonderful day, that brought the community and the WI together for an unforgettable celebration.





## STROUD GREEN

### April's women's history

Christine Gregory

Probably the first woman parachutist in the UK, a founder of a school for the deaf and one of the founders of the RSPCA were among the 250 daring women of Haringey that we heard about from Bruce Castle Museum's curator and former SGWI member, Deborah Hedgecock.

These daring women, who all once lived in the borough of Haringey are commemorated on maps produced by Bruce Castle Museum. We learned of the extensive and painstaking research into this diverse group of women's lives carried out by the Museum. Vera Turl, the parachutist, was making jumps in the 1930s. Aged only 23, Blanche Nevile founded a school for the deaf in Tottenham in 1895, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2020.

Among these illustrious women are former SGWI member Kamila Zahno, members, a community campaigner and



author and Beatrice Offer, one of the first women to study at the Slade School of Art.

Other fascinating facts about the lives and accomplishments of women who have contributed, influenced and helped shape the area are highlighted in the Haringey Women's history maps:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture/exploring->



[haringey/womens-history-month/maps](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture/exploring-)

*In addition...*

After an Easter holiday break Stroud Green has held numerous activities: members enjoyed outings to Park Theatre, Alexandra Palace Theatre and local cinema, came joint second in the Quiz held at the Goods Office in aid of Mind in Haringey, and managed to make it to the experience the dawn chorus at Railway Fields Nature Reserve in Harringay.



## HAYES TOWN

Gill Wildman

On April 20th, 29 members of Hayes Town WI paid a return visit to Church Gardens, Harefield to see the blooming of 21,000 bulbs that had been planted since our first visit last September, and we were not disappointed.

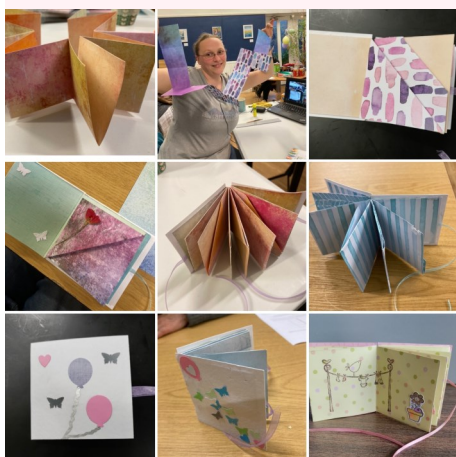
Colourful tulips in the kitchen garden, some in between veggies, & the main display in the orchard, where we saw the completion of the pond & restoration of an old boat The Mayflower.

Kay, head gardener and owner and her daughters ended our two hour tour with a cuppa 'deelish' homemade cake. They also will visit WIs give a one hr talk with slides.

## May's crafting & tea

Kit Greveson

With members enthusiastically looking forward to doing what every WI member loves (second to cake-making!), our May meeting saw a return to crafting (with Chris joining via Zoom). Led by Anna, we set out to



create mini scrapbooks, or memory books, in which to store our own amazing and personal memories.

Like bees around a honeypot, we buzzed about, choosing the cover from a selection of the most beautiful craft paper that Anna had brought along with which to make the little books. Instruction leaflets were distributed and, with Anna demonstrating each step, giving members time to fold, cut and assemble, the scrapbooks started to take shape. Chatter levels were high as we helped one another and much laughter echoed around the hall.

After the cover was correctly assembled, ribbon and embellishments (either from Anna's comprehensive stash or brought by members themselves) were added to finish off these little gems.

Michele's 'tea and chocolate' pairing taster interlude was a yummy addition to the evening. All delicious! Why not try doing your own pairings.

- ◆ Sweet Ginger Tea with Dark Chocolate and Orange or Dark Chocolate with Raspberries.
- ◆ Gold Blend Tea with 85% Dark Chocolate Or Dark Chocolate with a hint of sea salt.
- ◆ Liquorice and Cinnamon Tea with Intense Orange OR Millionaires Bar Chocolate.
- ◆ Green Tea with Lemongrass with Intense Orange Chocolate

The usual generous donations to Holy Trinity foodbank were carried off by a very satisfied Yvette, with thanks to all who contributed. All in all a great event with a large helping of thanks to Anna for all her hard work in arranging and hosting the session and of course to Michele for her delicious input.



## BEDFONT BELLES

Jenny Hanrahan

Our meeting in May involved food and Bingo. What a combination! Food consisted of a taster evening of exotic fruits, Indian nibbles, lots of new things to try.



Bingo had a twist as we chose our own numbers. Jennie and Jean were the callers. We played two sessions. Jenny Hanrahan won the first and Mary Stenson won the second.

More donations were brought in for our Bottle Tombola which will be a part of the Jubilee celebrations to be held on Bedfont Green.



## MANOR FARM

Patricia Harpur

A performance by the Reminiscence Roadshow from the Questors Theatre in Ealing, a group of strolling players, constituted the April 'speaker'. Enfolded on a subject (in this case WW2) and using anecdotal memories culled from audiences, they produced a 'playlet'. It was so well received, members requested their return.



Discussion of the Resolution in May enlightened members to a situation that might arise within their families.

Monthly trips having resumed, Milestones (a 'village' museum recalling



the last century) was revisited in March, Ham House in April and Tiggywinkles in May.

The latter is a wildlife 'hospital' of repute where one member, denied the chance of taking a hedgehog home, purchased a residence for one, in the hope a local hog being interested.

Lebanese cuisine was the latest 'taster' for the international monthly tour of Ruislip restaurants.

The checking and maintenance of 'our' two trees, by the War Memorial was also carried out.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Public Affairs for summer

Alison Fremantle

The NFWI Public Affairs team has put together a calendar of events which you can find in My WI.

Here are some suggestions for topics to discuss during July.

### July | Disability Pride month

Disabled people comprise the largest and most diverse minority group representing all abilities, ages, genders, race, cultures and ethnicities. Disability Pride is defined as 'accepting and honouring each person's uniqueness, and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity'.

### 5 July | NHS Birthday

On 5<sup>th</sup> July every year, the country unites to celebrate our NHS and all that it does to ensure that physical and mental health is a

right to be enjoyed by all. We remember all that the people in the NHS do in looking after us.

### 30 July | International Day of Friendship

Proclaimed in 2011 by the United Nations General Assembly, with the idea that the friendship between people's countries, cultures and individuals, can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

### Take part in King's College London research on cervical screening

The WI is working with King's College London to promote a study funded by Cancer Research UK. Researchers are looking for women aged 25-64 in England to take part in an online survey about cervical screening. The survey is open until **4 July 2022**.

[Click here](#) for the survey

## Special Craft Event

Sat 9 July, 10.30

### Mors Bag Workshop

£15

MFWI Office.

All materials supplied, however you will need to bring your own sewing machine.



## MFWI OFFICE WEST DRAYTON

Thursdays 10.30-15.30

## EASTCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE RUISLIP

Saturdays 14.00-17.00

Members only

Fee payable in advance or on the day

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

15 December

### Beaded Star

£6

All women welcome

Fee payable in advance

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 bookings

Booking is essential for all craft sessions.

Fee includes any materials for the crafts listed, plus tea and coffee.

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@mfwi.org.uk](mailto:craft@mfwi.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.



## 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

## Special Craft Event

Sat 23 July, 14.00-17.00

### Learn to Draw with Lynne Hayes

£15

Eastcote Community Centre

All materials supplied.

