



Middlesex News

November 2022

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chair's Chat

Angela Chessman

Hello all

I hope you are all well and enjoying this mild Autumn weather. The seasons really are changing, and they are no

longer as clear cut as they used to be; I must confess that I enjoy the lingering summers.

However, as winter approaches, I know a lot of us will be thinking about the cost of living—especially, maybe, the cost of heating our homes, and if we will be able to keep warm.

Please have a look at *The Cost of Living Hub* in MyWI, where you will find information about the government support for energy bills.

The WI also supports the *Warm this Winter* Campaign, which calls on the Government to address this crisis.



This will be a difficult time for many people, so it's important to know what help is available.

We are well into the Annual Meeting 'season'—many of Middlesex WIs have their AMs at this time of year. Most meetings will be chaired by one of our WI Advisers, so do take this opportunity to talk to them about any queries you may have, and let them know what you have been doing to encourage new members. It is good to share ideas.

WIs will also be getting their accounts audited and many now take advantage of the County's IFEs (Independent Financial Examiners) to do this. Is this something you might be Interested in doing? Full training will be given—if you think this is something you might enjoy please get in touch with our Treasurer, Sarah Endersby.

October marked the new year for the **200+ Club**. As you will see later in the newsletter (refer page 3), we have increased the number of prizes and the prize amounts! Good luck to everyone who has a share.

You will know by now that the shortlist for next year's **Resolutions** has been published. All of the information, guides and discussion points will be available on My WI and will be published in *WI Life* and I am sure that your WI will set aside some time to discuss them at one of your forthcoming meetings.

Resolutions are an important part of your WI Membership, so please do get involved.

Just a reminder that County Office is now open Mondays and Wednesdays, 9am to 1pm, as well as for Craft Dabble days. Hope to see you there sometime.

Kind regards

Angela

Warm This Winter campaign

The WI are supporting the **Warm this Winter** campaign. The campaign is calling for immediate emergency financial support to the most vulnerable for energy bills, whilst also calling for action that leads us away from the UK's broken energy system towards cleaner, greener and cheaper forms of energy.

How you can take action:



- ◆ Sign the petition on the [Warm this Winter website](#).
 - ◆ Use our [template letter](#) to write your MP to call for emergency and longer-term policies to address the cost of living crisis and the climate crisis.
 - ◆ Stay up to date with the WI's work with the Warm this Winter campaign by signing up to the [NFWI Public Affairs digest](#).
- <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/news-and-actions/cost-of-living-hub>

Newsletter deadlines >>> see page 2

WI BIRTHDAYS



*Congratulations to WIs
celebrating this month:*

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

North West London

13 November 2007

Stroud Green

15 November 2011

CAMPAIGNS

Women and Girls with Autism and ADHD

The second in the NFWI's series of
webinars to inform members about the
current resolution will be held on **Friday
11 November at 1pm – 2.30pm**. This
time you can learn more about autism in
women and girls.

The session will be followed by a Q&A
session, where you will have the chance
to ask your questions.

To register, go to the campaigns section
of MyWI and [submit a form](#).

*If you know anyone in your WI who is
interested in our campaigns, please direct
them to the [campaigns area of MyWI](#) to sign
up to receive this Public Affairs Digest.*

200+ CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of
our recent **200+ Club** draw. See page
3 for new on the increased prizes for
this year's competition.

October 2022 Enhanced draw

1st prize - £80

Wendy Kislingbury, Ashford

2nd prize - £60

Linda Bell, Greenford

3rd prize - £40

Rosemary Elmer, Stanwell

4th prize - £20

Mary Eastwell, Southbourne

GET IN TOUCH

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The MFWI office is open 9am-1pm Mondays and Wednesdays

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Newsletter Info

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

- * Dec 2022 / Jan2023 issue: 18 Nov
- * Feb 2023 issue: 20 Jan
- * Mar 2023 issue: 17 Feb

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.

200+ Club 2022-2023

We're pleased to announce that the prize money and number of winners of the 200+ Club, has been increased.

There will be a draw each month with four cash prizes as follows:

1st prize: £40.00

2nd prize: £30.00

3rd prize: £20.00

4th prize: £10.00

The October draw, the first for the new competition year, and the MFWI Annual Council Meeting 2023 draw will be enhanced as follows:

1st prize: £80.00

2nd prize: £60.00

3rd prize: £40.00

4th prize: £20.00

The Bursary, to be drawn at the MFWI Annual Council Meeting 2023, will be £200.00.

The Club is now closed for 2022-2023, however keep an eye out for winners in every newsletter, do consider joining in 2023-24.

Best of luck to all Club members this year!

— Heather McIntyre

Public Affairs November dates for your diary

World Kindness Day

13 November

A chance to make kindness the norm, and build a new routine including intentional moments of kindness: a smile, a compliment, a laugh, a conversation, or a cup of coffee.

16 days of Action Against Gender-based Violence

25 November - 10 December

This has been a long standing concern of the WI and many women and girls continue to experience physical violence and other forms of abuse. We are being encouraged to continue to raise awareness of the international problem, and get involved, maybe to support a local refuge centre.



A message to all Climate Ambassadors

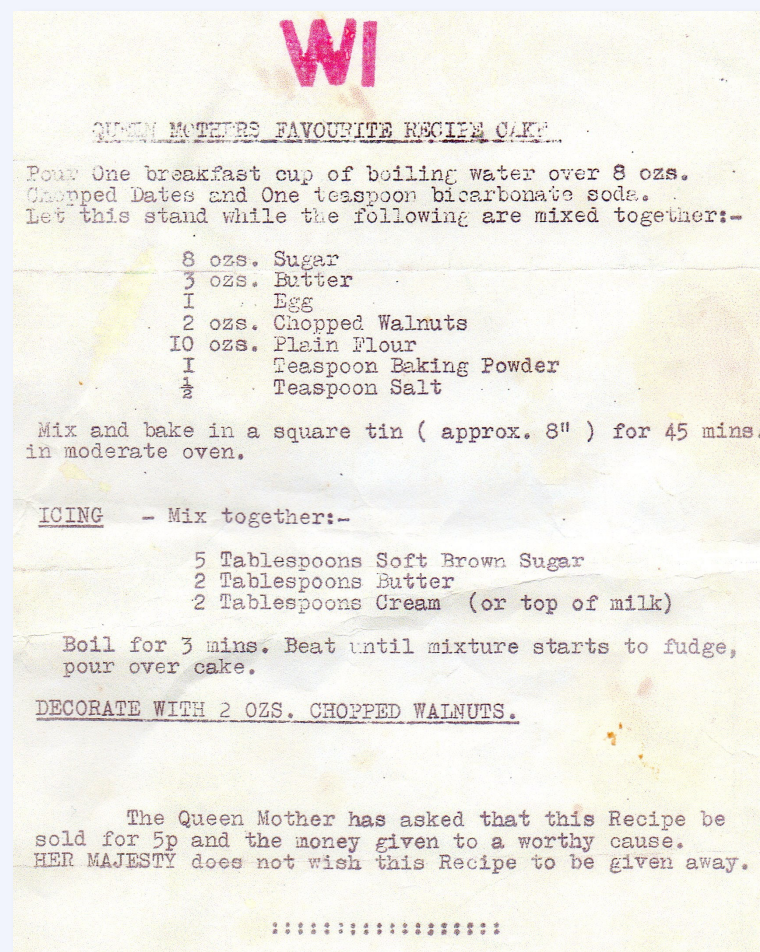
We'd like to invite you to one of our meetings, and support what you do, if we can. However, we have no names or contact details. Please contact me at publicaffairs@mfwi.org.uk if you have time. We'd love to meet you!

—Alison Fremantle

Centenary Recipes

For Middlesex Federation's centenary we asked members to contribute their favourite recipes for compilation and sharing among our members.

We continue this month with a recipe the presentation of which is so evocative we decided to leave it in its original format. Thank you to Pauline Dickensen of Harlington WI for this submission.





Manor Farm

Enid Welsh

13 September 2022 was to be a momentous occasion for Manor Farm WI: our 50th anniversary, so we planned well ahead. We booked the Winston Churchill Lounge as we needed space to accommodate guests seated at tables and show some memorabilia of our 50 years.

Unfortunately it was not to be so. The members turned up early, then the guests, but there was no sign of the building opening. We couldn't contact the caretaker. So we hurriedly devised and implemented Plan B.

Our usual small Community Hut was vacant so we moved there and (all hands to the deck) set up chairs, put out a buffet, our photo albums and celebratory cake. Finally we all relaxed, cramped but ready for a party.

Welcomes and apologies were profuse. We acknowledged the death of the Queen, a WI member, and held a minute's silence.

The Reminiscence Road Show, a small group of actors, entertained us with dramatized anecdotes about bicycles; the first bike, the promise 'if you pass the exam', the friendships and the romances.

The buffet got everyone up to collect food and drink. The room was full of chat and seeming chaos. Our oldest member, Evelyn, almost 100, cut the cake made by a member, Doreen. The chat continued, the raffle was drawn and it was time to close the meeting and thank everyone for coming.

Never say the WI can't be resourceful when a crisis arises!



Stone Rangers (aka The Wombles of Leytonstone!)

Jill Hasler

To round off Great Big Green Week, Stone Rangers WI (SRWI) members met to spend a sunny Saturday afternoon litter picking. We certainly had our work cut out; one member commented, "the children's playground was an absolute disgrace". This made us think about prevention and our Climate Ambassadors are planning to meet local councillors to raise the importance of education and awareness. I feared we had lost our newest member and it was a great relief when she crawled out of an overgrown bush clutching lots of litter: true WI perseverance from such a new recruit!



The council was helpful in providing equipment—once we'd learnt how to use the



hoops to hold the bags that is! Much else was learnt, as often happens at SRWI events. Some of it was surprising, like finding litter picking therapeutic.

Carmela, one of our experienced litter pickers, highlighted important health and safety points before we started such as not touching potentially dangerous objects while June, another of our experts, suggested next time we take before and after photos. We did manage this photo with our varied haul.

We all agreed it was time well spent and has spurred us on to do more in future.



Bedfont Belles

Jenny Hanrahan

At our October gathering we held our Annual Meeting. WI Adviser Sarah Endersby kindly came to preside over the meeting and it was lovely to greet some prospective members.

Chris Smither (pictured) was voted in as our new president. Our sincere thanks went to Jenni Lowes who has guided us through some very difficult times with the help and support of our fabulous committee.

Arranging trips was handed over to Janice and Jenny and our first outing will be to the Imperial War Museum to see the photography exhibition 'Portraits of a Queen in Wartime'.

We are enjoying our new venue and the evening concluded with a slideshow of the many photos taken during our meetings and trips out. Happy memories!!



Stroud Green

Anna Matthews

I was really looking forward to this meeting not only because I love all forms of dance but because the first ever WI meeting I came to was a Morris dancing class back in 2018. I came away thinking then as I did this time, not



only have I learned something new and had fun but I have met a group of women who are clearly up for having a go at anything and enjoy themselves as they do it.

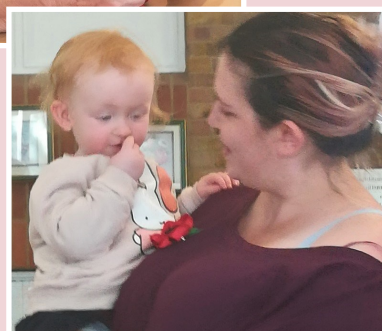
[New Esperance Morris](#) take their London dancing heritage proudly from the Esperance Club a women's working club from the 1900s who after enjoying singing folk songs started Morris dancing, gathering traditional dances from around the country. The current group (formed in the 1970s) dance a mix of Cotswold Morris traditions (time was every village & town had its own Morris tradition) and some of their own creation.

Our members with hankies aloft and a shout of 'hey' on our lips joined in with gusto, if not with accuracy. We did all end up in the right



place, which for some of us was a major achievement. It was surprisingly energetic and certainly more fun than being at the gym.

I have no idea how our members who Zoomed in kept a straight face, I certainly didn't, but I did have enormous fun and was reminded once again why I joined this group of fun loving dedicated women who will throw themselves into anything.



Ashford

Wendy Kislingbury

Ashford members used their monthly craft session to prepare for Remembrance Day as they made poppy brooches. It took a lot of concentration to make the perfect product, but the finished brooch was worth it. Our newest member's baby was suitably impressed with her mum's efforts.

Our October meeting took us on a travelogue through Burma and also saw the fourth of our long-term members celebrating her 90th birthday this year. We are grateful to have had their exceptional support to our WI for decades. Congratulations to Joyce, Betty and Hazel and in memory of Sonya who sadly passed away a few weeks after her birthday.

Laleham

Chris Walker

A small group of members visited a local landmark in September, Syon House in Brentford. We enjoyed a tour of this fascinating house, built in 16th century, and learnt a lot about the history of the house and the Duke of Northumberland's family.

It was a bit too wet to take advantage of the beautiful park so we had to make do with a nice lunch and on site shopping (no complaints there !).

Our speaker at September's meeting was very entertaining. Val Wiseman talked to us about her long career as a jazz singer, during which she sang with some of the great jazz bands and starring as Billie Holiday in the musical *Lady Sings the Blues*. A really enjoyable evening.



Teddington

Shelagh Laing

For our meeting on 12 October, Teddington WI hosted a 'Brilliant Breakfast' to raise funds for Women Supporting Women, a nationwide initiative from The Prince's Trust to help young women who face disadvantage and adversity to transform their lives. Canapes, cakes and coffees were served, and we donated our record breaking raffle funds to Women Supporting Women.

We were delighted to welcome Munira Wilson MP for Twickenham as our guest speaker. She spoke passionately of the women who had supported her through education, her work in the charity sector and pharmaceutical industry, and within local politics as a Councillor and national politics as an MP.



We heard how she in turn has coached and encouraged younger women within these organisations, enabling them to fulfil their potential. Munira challenged all of us to help and encourage other young women and share the benefits of our life experiences.

We talked with her on our WI National Resolution Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD and hope to share further information with her on this in the future.

A wide ranging Q+A session sought her response to accessibility, quality and provision of help in the care sector; the possibility of local housing for refugees; what happens in the surgeries she holds for her constituents; how Students could be assisted with the increased costs in heating; with our third female Prime Minister in Downing Street (at time of writing) what Munira's views were on what the PM was doing to support the women of the UK; her ambitions to raise money for two local children's charities; and dear to this writer's heart, how and why is the block of British butter I buy now priced 153% higher than it was this time last year.

At an extremely volatile time in the British political landscape, it was exceptionally kind of her to offer her time, observations and encouragement to our membership.



Sunbury Village

Debbie Levy

**Sunbury Village WI celebrates
10 years of choir**

10 years ago, the WI, inspired by Gareth Malone, did a big drive to encourage WIs to set up choirs. They gave a two-year set up and get ready window before the big national competition.

Who would have thought when Sunbury Village WI stood trembling on the stage at Dorking Halls, they would still be around another 8 years later.

A huge thank you goes to Claire Leonard, their Choir Master, who has been with them since the start and to Anna Sinclair, choir co-ordinator, for making sure they all turn up at the right time in the right place.

Ahh what a lovely reminiscent evening. Thanks so much Claire for your unending enthusiasm! (Lysa White, choir member)

Fantastic evening. Thank you everyone. What a lovely bunch you are! (Alice Downes - choir member)



A lovely evening thank you to all involved in organising it. Where did those 10 years go! (Gill Tuck, choir member)

Thanks to all for a lovely evening and yes 10 very enjoyable years of choir. Thank you, Claire, for your enthusiasm and encouragement. It's been such fun!! (Sandra Garrett, choir member)

Thanks for celebrating ladies and here's to the next 10 years!!! It has been a pleasure teaching you this past decade. (Claire Leonard, Choir Master)



Harrow Belles

Eileen O'Connor



On Sunday afternoon, 25 September, at local coffee shop, Battels, our WI member Ashima, an artist by profession whose work is displayed in galleries and exhibitions in London and Paris, held a two hour painting session, *Decode the mystery in inkblot*, for our members. Ashima guided attendees

in abstract painting Ashima generously gave her time and materials without charge to WI members. We turned up with coloured napkins and all she asked was that we support the coffee shop so we enjoyed refreshments and cake while there.



We had a truly lovely afternoon. Some of the ladies brought their 'masterpieces' to the following month's WI meeting so ladies who were unable to make it viewed members' artwork. Ashima's work can be checked out on her webpage at www.ashimaart.com.



Hayes Town

Marion Batchelor

Our September meeting began with lighting a candle and two minute silence to reflect on the life of our late Queen Elizabeth II. We remember her fondly and with gratitude for her many years of loyal service. She will be greatly missed, We sang the national anthem to welcome our new King.

We then had a very entertaining talk by the Ickenham Post Box Topper Group. It was started informally by Jane Ellis during lockdown and became popular with residents and Royal Mail, who asked for it to continue, and so the Group began.

They now 'cover' 18 boxes in Ickenham, changing each one four times a year. They also made a topper for Prince Philip's funeral which they placed on a box in Windsor. It was seen by the Queen and is now in the Royal Collection along with another made for her Jubilee.

The group raises money for many charities including Michael Sobell Hospice and Hillingdon Hospital. Talented ladies: well done!



Southbourne

Jackie Head

We hold a craft meeting every Friday morning where a number of members knit, crochet, paint, cross stitch - you name it someone will have a go and, of course, chat. Recently we all had a go at Chicken scratch embroidery also known as Depression Lace but, in my opinion, preferably known as Broderie Suisse.

It was fairly simple to complete and a great success.



Ruislip Evening

Sandy Channon

Our October meeting included a very interesting talk from Wing Commander Victoria Fulton whose career in the RAF spans more than 20 years and who spoke about the role of Women in War. She trained as a navigator and spent time in many war-torn counties including Afghanistan, Libya and Mali. As of April 2022, women represented only 11.3% in the UK Regular Forces.

Our members have been busy knitting and crocheting Poppies for Armistice Day and tags were provided for a symbolic Memory Tree to write a message of Remembrance of someone who served. To add authenticity to the evening a few of our members dressed in 1940s clothes and uniforms and others made wartime recipes, including a Condensed Milk Cake for VE day.

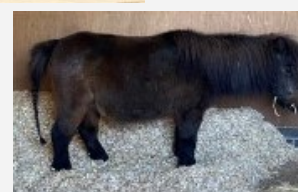
Our book club read The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society which is a well written informative book, in letter form, which included factual information about the life on Guernsey and the Channel Islands during the

dark years spent under the shadow of the German occupation.

This month we organised a visit to the Horse Trust and our member Helen went on the visit and has written about her enjoyable day out:

On Saturday 8 October we had a lovely visit to the Horse Trust at Speen. The weather was fabulous as were the wonderful residents. All the horses had moving histories and made you feel proud of the service they have given. They included retired police horses, service horses, horses who worked with those who have disabilities. Some also had some sad stories where they had been subject to cruelty and mistreatment.

The Horse Trust is the most wonderful place for them to retire to. You can see how well cared for they are and how happy they are to be seen and petted by the visitors. There is also a small museum that was informative. After a lovely time wondering around the stables, we headed to the tea shop where we all had our refreshments sitting outside enjoying the sunshine and having a good chat. The Horse trust is well worth a visit.



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



MFWI Office West Drayton

Thursdays 10.30-15.30

Members only

Fee payable in advance or on the day

**24 November
Candle Decorating**

£8

**15 December
Beaded Star**

£6

Eastcote Community Centre

Saturdays 14.00-17.00

All women welcome

Fee payable in advance

**26 November
Rag Wreaths**

£10

**17 December
Candle Decorating**

£12

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 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.

Around the WIs

Stanwell

Dianne Butler

Stanwell WI has enjoyed a full and varied programme over the last few months.



We enjoyed a sunny afternoon at our member Mary Jeffery's Garden Party. Our Croquet

Section played at the National Trust ground in Runnymede; another fabulous day enjoying the sunshine. Some members ventured to Brighton see a George Michael tribute and after a walk along the sea front, also an amazing Sunday pub Lunch.

We had an extremely interesting speaker, Hazim (and son Yusef) who gave a fascinating talk about bee keeping; extremely knowledgeable.

We had a trip to Woking Theatre to see *Cher*; it was excellent. Even more special as Mary Newstead's granddaughter was in the cast. It was also really great to hold our Annual



Skittles evening, as our last one was the week before the covid shut down. Some members enjoyed an Abba evening at the O2 in London, and of course dressed for the part.

The Mayor of Spelthorne Sue Doran (member of Stanwell WI) organized a charity Elvis night which was very well attended and we had a great evening dancing.

It was a fantastic evening at Notcutts for the Spelthorne in Bloom awards. Well done Stanwell WI for not only winning Best Kept War Memorial but also winning Best in Show! Thank you, Mary, Maureen and all who helped to look after the memorial and special thanks to Mary for lovely choice of plants. So colourful!

