



Middlesex News

May 2023

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chair's Chat

Angela Chessman

Hello everyone

Hello everyone. I hope you are all well and enjoying the three Bank Holidays this month! Let's hope that the weather is kind to us.

I am sure that several of you will be busy planning for the King's Coronation—I know that my WI is.

Maybe you are looking forward to watching the event on television, or are planning an afternoon tea or street party? Whatever you do, I hope that you have a great weekend—and don't forget to send in the photos!

There are also some lovely Coronation makes in My WI if you are feeling crafty, so why not have a go?

You may remember that Board member Julia Lewis has organised a theatre trip in May to see Frozen. I hope that all who are going enjoy yourselves; I saw the show last year and it is truly magical, whatever your age.

Hopefully, Julia will be organising more theatre visits soon.



*Our members love a good hat!
Winner of Stanwell WI's Easter hat competition
Hester looking exceptionally festive.*



There are also other events in the pipeline, so watch this space.

It's not long now until our Annual Meeting in Cardiff, and I'm looking forward to seeing some of you there.

The Annual Meeting is when we debate and give our final votes on this year's Resolution, Clean rivers for people and wildlife.

Please ensure that your delegate knows how your WI wishes to vote.

The National Federation has announced two excellent speakers for the meeting: World Cup winning Cricketer Ebony Rainford-Brent MBE, and Laura McAllister, former International Footballer and now a Professor of Public Policy at Cardiff University.

I am sure they will entertain us after the hard work discussing the Resolution!

For those coming on the MFWI coach, we might just have a quiz for the journey...

Have a good month.

Kind regards

Angela

Newsletter deadlines >>> see page 2

WI BIRTHDAYS



A very Happy Birthday to our WIs
celebrating in May

Finchley	13 May 2009
Stanwell	15 May 1919
Ladies Of The Lock	26 May 2016

200+ CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of our
recent 200+ Club draw:

April 2023

1st prize - £40

Lorraine Reed, Ruislip Evening

2nd prize - £30

Elsbeth Alamgeer, Sunbury-on-Thames

3rd prize - £20

Jackie Wilkins, Halliford

4th prize - £10

Lorna Gale, Halliford

FROM YOUR BoT

Have you considered...

...becoming a Federation Trustee?

We need and welcome more Trustees, and would always be happy to have a chat with any member who is interested in joining us. We will invite you to observe on of our monthly Board of Trustee meetings (either in person or on Zoom), so you can get a feel for who were are what we do.

Interested? Please call the office or drop an email to Angela at

chair@mfwf.org.uk

GET IN TOUCH

COUNTY OFFICE

Unit 3 - No 7 The Green, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7PL

Tel: 01895 440161

Email: secretary@mfwf.org.uk

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

CHAIR Angela Chessman	chair@mfwf.org.uk
SECRETARY Georgina Glynn	secretary@mfwf.org.uk
TREASURER Sarah Endersby	treasurer@mfwf.org.uk
200+ CLUB Heather McIntyre	200plusclub@mfwf.org.uk
ACWW	acwwrep@mfwf.org.uk
ARCHIVES Elizabeth Alcock	archivist@mfwf.org.uk
CRAFT Lorraine Reed	craft@mfwf.org.uk
DIGITAL TEAM Emma Watson	digitalteam@mfwf.org.uk
MCS	mcs@mfwf.org.uk
MEMBERSHIP Liz Morrell	membershipenquiries@mfwf.org.uk
NEWSLETTER Emma Watson	newsletter@mfwf.org.uk
PUBLIC AFFAIRS Alison Fremantle	publicaffairs@mfwf.org.uk
SCIENCE & LEISURE Alison Fremantle	scienceandleisure@mfwf.org.uk
SPEAKERS DIRECTORY	speakers@mfwf.org.uk
WEBSITE Emma Watson	website@mfwf.org.uk

Newsletter Info

Please send articles (maximum 150 words please) and photos (largest size possible, as separate attachments, please) to Emma at newsletter@mfwf.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

- * June 2023 issue: 19 May
- * July 2023 issue: 23 June
- * Aug/Sept 2023 issue: 21 July

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.

Greenefielde

Christine Chambers

Joan Kent: a tribute

Joan Kent, a founder member of Greenefielde WI, passed away on 2 March 2023 aged 105 years.

Incredibly, Joan was still supporting herself at her house in Laleham near Staines, and was still in excellent spirits right up to a brief illness that sent her to hospital. Even then she said 'there is nothing wrong with me—I feel a fraud...I shouldn't be here'.

Joan had been a member of Greenefielde WI for many decades before she had to stop attending our meetings. She still continued to



support our WI by opening her house and garden to us every year right up to present day.

On a regular basis Joan became the hostess for our WI's Garden Parties in her beautiful garden on summer afternoons. She also was our hostess for coffee mornings when the weather was less clement.

She was a keen sportswoman and, in earlier years, played tennis and croquet for Greenefielde teams. Later, she had her back lawn converted to a croquet pitch so that she could continue playing. Our members will remember being taught croquet by this incredible lady who was over 100 years old at the time.

The Alexandra

Chris Randall

The Alexandra WI received a request for volunteers to knit orange hats for the premature baby units at the Royal Free Hospital and Barnet Hospital.

The bright orange hats help the medical teams identify which babies need extra care.

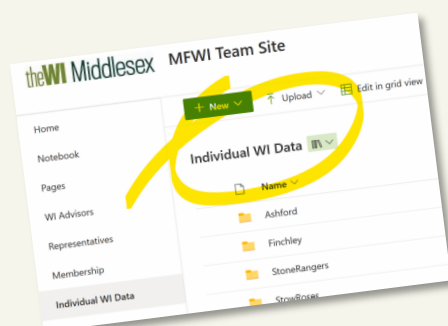
We set to work, and together with our charity knitting group produced about 50 hats for these babies. We enjoyed the project and were very pleased to help.



Digital Team

A reminder about shared storage on the MFWI Sharepoint site

Emma Watson



Thank you to all the WIs which have enthusiastically started using their shared storage area on the MFWI Sharepoint site.

We are continuing to set up an area for **digital storage for your WI committee** on our MFWI Sharepoint site. This allows your WI to store all its info in a shared space accessible by your officers (current and future), and which is backed up securely. No more losing important files in the depths of someone's laptop or a broken iPad, and there is no risk if an officer is unwell or otherwise unable to retrieve files.

We'd love all Middlesex WIs to start using this, and for those who have not yet taken the plunge, keep an eye out for

an email from digitalteam@mfwl.org.uk in the coming month.

We really do want to help as much as we can to make the admin side of the WI a little less time-consuming, so thank you to everyone who continues to ask questions, propose improvements and even have a bit of a grumble. It all helps!

★

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with me at digitalteam@mfwl.org.uk.



Hayes Town

Gill Wildman

March saw the return of the lovely Angela with her 'Berkshire Birds of Prey' with her assistant 'the hubby' passing around owls, falcons and hawks and giving advice to our appreciative ladies. The first owl was named Luke Skywalker; originally the species are from New Zealand. We then met Mo from Africa, eating mainly scorpions, snakes, mice and rats.



It was then Noddy, a kestrel, which are on decline. They have amazing eyesight and can fly up to 270 miles per hour! Beautiful Bella the white barn owl was next with that heart shaped face. They are fully grown in 12-16 weeks. Last but not least the majestic Bertie the brown owl; he knows he's a crowd stopper! After many questions, sadly it was time for them to go. Tea and biscuits were served and everyone was busy swapping their mobile phone pictures of our visitors!



Greenford

Trish Quinlan

We had a visit from Sarah Slater, the excellent tour guide at Hampton Court Palace. She is so entertaining, and this time was no exception, beginning with the Jubilee of Henry III in the 13th century. Edward III, George V, Victoria and of course Queen Elizabeth II all had either 25 year or 50 year events celebrated in the styles of the day.

By the time Queen Victoria had her Golden Jubilee, gas lighting allowed celebrations to be on a lavish scale with Westminster Abbey lit up to show the added balconies built into the sides to accommodate even more guests.

Her Diamond Jubilee was to have been at St Pauls Cathedral and as she was too frail to



attend inside, the ceremony was conducted outside the Cathedral.

The streets were mobbed with thousands of well-wishers, Victoria insisting on being in an open top coach throughout the day despite having eight attempts on her life.

Sarah showed slides illustrating the good and bad points of each reign. This culminated in some of our members wearing crowns before being elected the most popular monarch, of course the winner being our late Queen Elizabeth II.

We then marvelled at Sarah's great collection of memorabilia of royal coins, medals, stamps and bone china through the ages.

A wonderful talk by Sarah and great history lesson!

Laleham

Chris Walker

We enjoyed a great evening with one of our favourite speakers at the March meeting. Brian Greenan entertained us with a fascinating (and convincing) talk about Frank Sinatra and the Mafia.

We also got crafty: here are some lovely cards crafted by some of our talented ladies.



Sunbury on Thames

Barbara Draper

The meeting of Sunbury on Thames WI held at the Orangery in Squires Garden Centre on 26 March was well attended.

Joy Hopkins, our representative at the Middlesex ACM gave a positive account of that meeting and suggested it was both interesting and informative, and many more of our members would enjoy it.

Margaret Denman, a volunteer shepherdess, brought in Titch, a one day old lamb, also explaining that this year many ewes were having multiple births.

The guest speaker, Peter Allen, gave us a splendid talk, with slides, about the history of British crime fighters, including John Thaw as Morse, with Kevin Wheatley as his side kick. Between 1987 and 2000 there were 33 episodes, and in 2018 *Inspector Morse* was rated 42 on a ranking of the greatest TV programmes. A series most enjoyed.

The next meeting is on Sunbury on Thames' birthday. Our WI started in 1980, and judging by old notes has been a good productive 43 years. To celebrate, we are having fish and chips before our actual meeting.

For the Coronation of King Charles III, we are planning to celebrate by going to the local park on 10th May, wearing our red, white and blue (of course) and eating our sandwiches (white and brown!) and making a lot of noise. We only hope the sun will shine!

Stanwell

Dianne Butler

Stanwell WI held our annual Easter Coffee morning in the village hall with the photo of King Charles III in place.

We had a fantastic turn out with lots of support from members and the good people of Stanwell. Our member Hester won the Easter Hat competition.

An addition to the Village Hall is a very detailed model of the Hall; it is excellent.





Sunbury Village

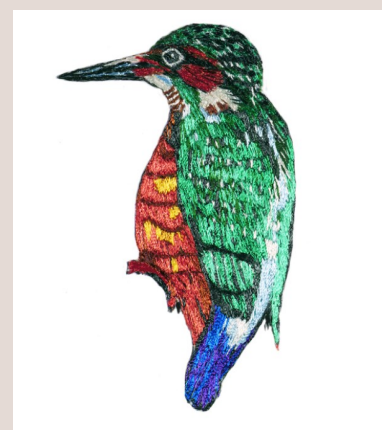
Debbie Levy

We were joined by Michiko Gardner for a captivating talk on the journey of the Sunbury Gallery. We learnt about the history behind its founding, and discovered the unique story of the building it calls home. We got a sneak peek of what makes it so special today, including its picturesque location. There are ambitious plans for the Gallery to become a centre of textile art.



Did you know the gallery is home to many visiting collections of the contemporary art of embroidery? In early 2023 was the Diana Springall collection and coming up from May to July is the Hampton Court Place Florilegium Society.

There is a full programme of workshops, for embroidery, willow sculpture, lace making, traditional Palestinian embroidery, beading, calligraphy, knitting, crochet and box covering. For more information visit <https://www.sunburygallery.org>



THE SUNBURY
EMBROIDERY
GALLERY

The Sunbury Gallery
WI – 27/03/2023

Spend a day out visiting Sunbury its walled garden, embroidery gallery and cafe.



London West End

Natalie Miller

The ladies of London West End have been getting crafty. After a break of three years we returned to The Atlantis Bookshop, the home of our craft club. During covid we crafted virtually, and then headed to pubs and cafes, but sadly the lighting wasn't great in these venues.

So to Atlantis we returned... our first session in April was jewellery making with Pam. In May we'll be making heart garlands and following that we'll turn books into hedgehogs. Members from other WIs are always welcome; we meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm in [The Atlantis Bookshop](#), Museum Street, WC1A 1LY.

Our April meeting was also crafty: we learnt how to create animals by English Paper Piercing—a form of patchwork Thankfully we also had some simpler patterns too! Here's a photo of the fantastic elephant created by Jo—isn't he great?! In May it's even more craft with origami.



Southbourne

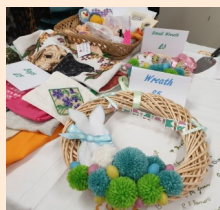
Jackie Head

We were lucky enough to have sisters, Mary and Siobhan, from The Papercraft Movement as guest speakers.

They have a passion for using paper to make amazing and very decorative gift boxes, cards, and mindfulness packs. Everyone had the opportunity to make a small but beautiful Easter basket: everything was provided and all we had to do was bend and stick. It was lovely to be able to take something very pretty home.

We also had a successful small craft and cake sale.

This month's theme was yellow and a square yellow candle with bees on it won.



Bedfont Belles

Jenny Hanrahan

Our meeting in April was visited by Isabelle who gave us a very interesting insight into security and all its problems at John Lewis and Waitrose. It was shocking to hear of the amount of money lost through theft and fraud.



On 16 April we had a brilliant afternoon at The Hampton Hub, including a delicious afternoon tea with scones made by our Sandra. Entertainment was provided by soloists and a five-man choir and Sue Green organised bingo for everyone. A lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

On 17 April we went to the Museum of Brands. Many things were remembered and talked about and then after a rest in the pretty garden we were off to find lunch. Then a stroll down Portobello Road before returning home and remembering chocolate bars for a shilling and crocheted tops.



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



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.

We ask you to book to help us plan.

Queries and bookings

To book, mail craft@mfwl.org.uk or call Lorraine on 01895 676 105 or call/text on 07976 398 533.

Dabble Days

MFWI Office, West Drayton

Thursdays 10.30-15.30

Members only

Fee payable in advance or on the day

18 May

Glass Painting

£6

15 June

Encaustic Art

£8



20 July

Dream Catcher

£6

17 August

Paper Craft



£6

19 October

Silk Painting

£10

16 November

Suffolk Puffs

£6

