



Middlesex News

September 2023

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chair's Chat

Angela Chessman

Hello everyone

...and welcome to our late Summer Middlesex News.

I hope that you have enjoyed the warmer weather – although as I am writing this

there is an amazing thunderstorm going on.

Ah, the joys of a British Summer!

As you probably know, National Federation has sent out information and deadlines for the submission for next year's Resolutions.

Is there an issue that you feel passionate about and that the WI could get behind? Would you like to enter it for discussion as a Resolution?

Your Secretary should have a copy of the guidelines, and there is full information on My WI. Alternatively, have a chat with Alison Fremantle, our Federation Public Affairs representative, who will be able to help.

National Federation has also sent out details of next year's Annual Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 5 June 2024 at The Royal Albert Hall in London. I hope to see some of you there at this wonderful venue.



We absolutely love this photograph, by Asda's photographer Josh, of Hayes Town WI members Sue Thomas and Wendy Capehorn embracing at the Thank You For Being A Friend flashmob event.

*The joyous surprise event was part of Music for Dementia's Thank You Day in July.
Read more on page 5.*



WI Adviser Gerry Attias, Hayes Town WI President Linda Lawrence and Middlesex Federation Chair Angela Chessman cut the cake to mark the recent 30th Birthday of Hayes Town WI.

Just a reminder that it's time to renew your 200+ Club shares. Shares remain at £6 and there have been a lot of lucky monthly draw winners this year, as well as the bursary winners at the Annual Meeting.

You have to be in it to win it—more details from your Secretary.

You may recall that Federation has been updating the Speakers Directory as well as trying to make it a bit more user-friendly. We are now finalising this and hope to be able to send it out to all WIs soon.

It would be great if you could send us feedback when you book one of the speakers—it all helps other WIs to decide whether the speaker is someone their members may like to hear.

Finally, plans are afoot for a Federation-wide competition that will be open to all WIs.

More details to follow...

I hope that you will enjoy the rest of the summer. Don't forget to send in photos of your WI activities.

Angela

Newsletter deadlines >>> see page 2

WI BIRTHDAYS



*Happy birthday to our WI
celebrating in September*

West Ealing

27 September 2011

200+ CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of our recent

200+ Club draws:

July 2023

1st prize - £40
Penny Shervill, Hayes Town

2nd prize - £30
Pat Brockett, Halliford

3rd prize - £20
Trish Quinlan, Greenford

4th prize - £10
Hayes Town WI

August 2023

1st prize - £40
E. Hutton, Manor Farm

2nd prize - £30
Tracey Mercer, Stanwell

3rd prize - £20
Angela Chessman, Stanwell

4th prize - £10
Lynne Poole, Sunbury on Thames

WI DAY

WI Day Group Meeting

The Group Meeting of Hayes, Harlington, Hillingdon, West Drayton and Iver WIs is to be held on **Saturday 16 September 2023** in Hayes and Harlington Community Centre, Albert Road, Hayes UB3 4HR, from 2pm to 4pm.

We will hold a skittles tournament, competition, quiz and raffle and refreshments will be served.

There is car parking at the Community Centre and easy access by bus or train (Elizabeth Line).

We would be delighted if any members are able to join us on our special WI Day!

Tickets cost £5 and are available from harlingtonsec@mfwl.org.uk

GET IN TOUCH

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Newsletter Info

Please send articles (maximum 150 words please) and photos (largest size possible, as separate attachments, please) to 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

* Oct 2023 issue: 22 Sept

* Nov 2023 issue: 20 Oct

* Dec 2023 issue: 17 Nov

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, selected stories are occasionally featured on the [news page](#) of our website.



Bedfont Belles

Jenny Hanrahan

It was cheese and wine, bingo and a table-top sale at our June meeting. Such a splendid selection of cheese wine and accompaniments that I forgot to take a photo of the fantastic spread put on by our wonderful committee. And it wasn't the over indulgence of wine!

Our June outing was a walk along the river from Twickenham to Richmond and then lunch. What an interesting walk it turned out to be! The road by York House was taken up with a film crew filming the next series of Belgravia. Many people in period costumes, makeup and hair being put right, and four WI members desperate to have a look. We went



on past Marble Hill House and over Richmond bridge for a well-earned rest on a seat in the shade after saying hello to Virginia Woolf who was also sitting by the river. We finished the walk with fish and chips and pub refreshments.



Such an evening for our July meeting. Apart from usual business and sorting bits out we had a speaker on 'The History of British Detectives



on the TV'. It brought back many memories of things we used to watch when there was no vast choice of channels and streaming services, from Inspector Hobbs to Silent Witness.

In spite of it being a little breezy (understatement) we had a great time together at our garden party held at Jennie's house. Pimm's, tea and sandwiches accompanied by lots of banter, laughter and putting the world to rights. We did sit outside until the wind blew a couple of plates of food over the fence and a shower threatened to dampen our spirits. Jean organised group games and Marion and Wendy provided their usual great raffle and everyone was offered a doggie bag to take home.



Sunbury Village

Debbie Levy

We have been delighted to be including a number of craft-themed WI evenings as part of our programme in 2023. The theme for June's crafting evening was felt purse making. Our workshop was run by committee member Pam Ibrahima: an evening of creativity, with members supporting members.

Sunbury Village has been busy with a calendar full of summer events. Thank you to Pam Ibrahima for organising a lovely trip out for afternoon tea at Weybridge

Garden Centre. We joined together for an end of year celebration in the café garden of Elle and Fee, Ashford, for drinks and sharing platters of cheeses, bread, hams and pickles, delicious. A big thank you to Jill Butler for organising.

Our end of year July WI evening was held in Orchard Meadow Sunbury. We treated ourselves to an ice cream and a game of skittles.



Iver

Joan Horton

We all enjoyed a lovely gossipy afternoon in Lynne's garden, and thankfully the weather remained dry and pleasantly warm without being too hot.

Members' food contributions added up to a good spread of savoury and sweet items, with plenty of left-overs for 'doggy bags'. Tea and coffee flowed, helped by obtaining the loan of the Village Hall's urn.

Lynne's dog Rufus trotted around dispensing friendly nuzzles, and later kept us amused by presenting his tennis ball to anyone willing to play 'fetch'.



Pinner

Carol Williams

One of our very talented and industrious members Ann Marie decided to hold a Fund Raising afternoon tea party during August, in her very beautiful garden. This was no mean feat as having gained a few new members this year, the numbers wishing to attend exceeded twenty ladies.

Ann Marie, not daunted by this prospect, provided an assortment of sandwiches sausage rolls and nibbles, plus a variety of home-made cakes including her renowned scones served with clotted cream and strawberry jam.

The day dawned and after a week of heavy rain the heavens smiled on us and the day of the tea party was bright, sunny and warm. Ann Marie was helped by another of our members Maggie in serving pots of tea and plates of food throughout the afternoon. A big thank you to both of them

We all had a wonderful time together and enjoyed each others' company and the delicious food in the surroundings of Ann Marie's beautiful garden. We wish to extend our appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Ann Marie for making this possible for us.

West Ealing

Our July main meeting was a lovely fun presentation from Scott Margetts about taking urban photos of the elusive kingfisher around the docks of Brentford. The presentation has received much praise from our members. Maybe a group trip to Brentford to spot the kingfisher?

Our August walk was a much anticipated tour of Ham. This was the third attempt and it was a great trip led by Irene—with no rain! 13 women and gorgeous dog Cody headed to Ham House and along Melancholy Walk to Ham Common. A big thank you to Irene for leading the walk, and to Helen who assisted too.

Hampton

Sally Cadle

My first year as President of Hampton WI is rushing by with some great highlights. Christmas was celebrated with mince pies and carols accompanied by the St Mary's Teddington Handbell Team. Learning about Henry VIII, his contribution to the British Navy and his wives proved popular with both members and the many visitors as it included tastings of the Hampton Court Gin Company range.

For our February meeting we heard from a volunteer from the costume department of Teddington Theatre Club, while March

focused on the area around Hampton Court with an informative talk about the various bridges that have crossed the Thames there. Keeping on the river theme in April, the Friends of Crane Park told us all about this lovely local amenity.

Much laughter could be heard in May from the hall at Hampton Hub as we spent the evening playing a variety of silly board games. June saw a return visit from Philip Hollis of Click Photography Workshops. We finished for our summer break in July with a visit from Alan Greenhalgh of First Class Falconry. Alan first produced three owls, each increasing in size, he followed these with a couple of falcons and shared the secrets of captive breeding. Alan had kept the final bird a secret but we agreed that we just had time to see it before we stopped for refreshments. Alan suggested that we could hold it and, of course as President, I was first in line to hold... the kookaburra!





West Drayton

Kay Crone

In July, West Drayton held its Annual Garden Party in the garden of their President, Kay.

The weather just about held for us and the committee had done us all proud with a large selection of homemade cakes and biscuits!

After starting the afternoon with prosecco or a non-alcoholic drink, we all moved on to a nice cup of tea in china cups and saucers, all the while chatting and eating the delicious cakes.

A very special raffle was held, with fantastic prizes, rounding off a lovely social afternoon.



Laleham

Chris Walker

For our June meeting we invited representatives of Shooting Star Children's Hospices. Neil is a volunteer ambassador for the charity and his presentation included details about the hospices and the great services they provide for children with life-limiting conditions, as well as their families.

Members were interested to hear about the wonderful work the charity does in our area and glad to have the opportunity to support it.



Hayes Town

Gill Wildman

Ten WI ladies took part in a *Thank You For Being A Friend* flashmob event for Music for Dementia campaign for Thank You Day 2023 Thank You Day on 10 July in Asda, Hayes.

We all gathered together on the Sunday morning in the cafe, where coffee and cakes were laid on. Freelance photographer Josh had positioned a video camera in the central aisle and WI ladies posed as shoppers with their baskets, waiting for the music over the tannoy, then did their 'flash mob' singing, making their way back up to the checkouts, joining up with other community groups myself handing out music sheets for shoppers to join in! After a break we did another session at midday, with some of the Asda staff singing!

It was so great to see everyone smiling, especially my dementia friends, as singing is so good for the brain.

On 15 June we celebrated 30 years of HTWI. As it is a Pearl anniversary, strings of pearls decorated the tables and all members dug out their pearl necklaces and pretty dresses. Angela Chessman and Gerry Attias were welcomed to our party by President Linda Lawrence. Wendy Capehorn had made a large beautiful card, signed by everyone, to go in our memory box.



We had a super buffet provided by Lesley Daly and her helpers, and entertainment from singer Stuart Wilson, which soon had everyone dancing. The hour soon went and all were gasping for their cuppa and cake before going home.

At July's meeting we welcomed Tony Eaton who spoke about the disappearance of the famous war time bandleader Glenn Miller (of *In the Mood* and *Moonlight Serenade* fame). As he was too old to enlist, he gave concerts to the troops. On 15 December 1944 he made a flight from England to France and the aircraft vanished over the English Channel. Was he involved in espionage? A secret mission? We will never know... unless you're around in 21 years time when there will be access to 100 year old war files.



Stanwell

Marilyn Rix

Stanwell WI Croquet Club celebrated the Marjorie Simmons fun day on a sunny afternoon on 21 June. We played several games on the croquet lawn. The theme was to dress up as either a famous person or TV character. After the games were completed, we went inside for cream tea and prosecco, organised by the committee. We were delighted Margaret Eggington won the games and trophy, which was very poignant as this event was a tribute to her mum, Marjorie Simmons. The winner of the best dressed character was Dianne Butler as Bart Simpson.

On 26 July the club held its second tournament of the season. Carol Sullivan and Dianne Butler were joint winners: well done ladies. The tournament was followed by Pimm's afternoon tea for 20 members. Thank you for the committee who provided and served the refreshments.



Our August meeting was *Mamma Mia* sing along film night. The Village Hall was decorated, our members were asked to either come in their ABBA costumes or dress for a wedding. Everyone joined in singing along and tapping their feet, and it was lovely to see Betsie, our oldest member (who will be 99 in

October), thoroughly enjoying herself. Nibbles of cheese, olives and grapes were offered keeping the theme of a Greek island in mind. Thank you Committee for organising a fun evening.



made it look to make croissants and pains aux chocolat. The meeting ended in near silence, with just the contented munching of Olivier's delicious pastries warm from the oven.

WI meetings can be so full on that sometimes it's great to spend some time getting to know each other and checking in on what we want from our WI.

We took advantage of the garden at Mind and enjoyed being outdoors having a catch up



Stroud Green

Christine Gregory & Anna Matthews

At our July meeting, micro baker, Olivier Chard, told us about his journey from training as a baker in Paris to setting up a micro bakery in Haringay, Pain d'Amis, which now sells baked goods through local farmers' markets as well as delivering directly to customers. Members were enthralled by how easy Olivier



over drinks and sharing picnic food and cake for our August meeting.

We loved being back at Art in the Park in Downhills Park on Sunday 23 July, an annual community event of free and fun art and craft activities for the family. We had our cake stall and offered free cupcake decorating for children.

Many thanks to all who stopped by and very grateful to all our bakers and helpers.

Ruislip Evening

Sandy Channon

As we walked into the hall for our July meeting we were greeted with the wonderful scent of fresh coffee. We tasted coffee freshly made from roasted beans and had an excellent, informative talk from Duncan and his wife who run Bay Coffee Roasters, a family company established over ten years ago, and which has won awards. They are based near the beach at Tresaith, West Wales. Their aim is to source Arabica beans which require longer growing times and specific climates.

The raw beans come from countries which include Brazil, Kenya, Ethiopia, Colombia, Honduras, and Papua New Guinea – we can't grow coffee beans in our climate! The beans are roasted and packaged in Wales, sold locally and on line, using a sustainability policy for their production and methods which are good for the climate: these include the use no fossil fuels, renewable electric energy and locally produced recyclable bags. Duncan also kindly gave us a bag of coffee to take home with us.

Lesley provided a fun quiz and delicious gluten free cake and our pennies competition theme was purple.

Our 'Thank you for being a friend' singalong and picnic was held in grounds of St Marys Church in Northolt. Some of us might not be able to sing but we had an enjoyable afternoon and the finished recording sounded great.

Our book club read *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a beautiful descriptive, well written book set in the marshlands of Barkley Cove in North Carolina; we will have lots to discuss at our next meeting.



Greenford

Trish Quinlan

At Greenford WI's Birthday Party on 21 June, member Barbara Pitt demonstrated the art of flower arranging. This was followed by our usual feast donated by members, finishing with the 'cutting of the cake' and a Royal House of Windsor quiz provided by Helen Eales, our Secretary. We were pleased to welcome two visitors from Ruislip Evening and two from Manor Farm, who also enjoyed the evening tremendously.

On 28 June, we visited the Martinware Pottery Exhibition at Southall Library. The Victorian Martin family produced four of the best potters of their generation, experts in quirky and unique designs in ceramics and earthenware. As the Martins were local respected figures, they are buried in Southall Cemetery. There are also exhibitions of their work in other museums around the country.

We then went on a tour of the Gurdwara Sikh Temple, also in Southall, an amazing building, with a Main Hall holding up to 2000 people. Our guide gave us the history of the Sikh religion which was founded in the 1400s. It is based on kindness and care for every living thing, as well as cleanliness and tolerance of other religions. We then went to the huge kitchens where up to 10,000 meals per day are prepared by an army of staff and served to anyone who enters their doors, including the needy or homeless. We were then served the meal of the day: two curries, rice, a chapati, coconut sweet and a cup of tea.

On Saturday 9 July, the Springhallows Fair took place. This was an event with 25 stalls, in aid of the Springhallows School for Autistic Children. We had a stall selling tea towels and bags depicting local Greenford and Perivale landmarks, designed by our President Madelyn Rosario. The event was very well attended and towards the end of the day, Steven Pound, past Ealing MP, was kind enough to boost our coffers with a purchase. The day raised much needed funds and drew to a close just before the rains came. A very lively and productive day for the area.



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



Dabble Days

MFWI Office, West Drayton

Thursdays 10.30-15.30

19 October

Silk Painting

£10

16 November

Suffolk Puffs

£6

14 December

**Decoupage
Christmas Bottle**

£8



*Members only. Fee payable in advance
or on the day*

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@mfwi.org.uk or
call Lorraine on 01895 676 105 or
call/text on 07976 398 533.

Around the WIs



N1WI

Clare Taylor

N1WI had a climate stall at Hackney Council's
Sustainability Day on 2 July, sharing with
Fairtrade and Sustainable Hackney. Although in
Islington, N1WI has two Hackney-based
Climate Ambassadors as members, and we

were supported by Fiona, a Climate
Ambassador from De Beauvoir WI. We
featured the group picture from the mass
lobby outside Parliament and leaflets about
such campaigns as microplastics and bees.

Others from N1WI helped with all the
preparations and baking, as well as on the stall,
and MFWI Trustee Alison Fremantle came
along to offer her support.

We had lots of visitors asking about what WI
does, what Climate Ambassadors are and
chatting about other campaigns: it was
surprising how many people hadn't heard of
WI or, if they had, didn't realise that WI is so
active in campaigning for environmental issues.

Sunbury on Thames

Barbara Draper

One of the most entertaining speakers we
have had at Sunbury-on-Thames WI was

John Tye, an ex-Concorde pilot. His
humour brought the plane to life, not to
mention Plus tales about on board guests
and various incidents.

Before the June meeting committee decided
to do something a bit different, so instead of
a speaker, a games afternoon was held. The
quiz was great fun, but the bingo was
hilarious, mainly due to the fact that almost
half had never played before. A lovely
afternoon!