



Middlesex News

October 2023

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chair's Chat

Angela Chessman

Hello everyone

I hope you are all well and have had a wonderful Summer. It was brilliant to have such lovely weather well into September, but it does highlight the strange

behaviour of the weather and how our seasons are changing.

Luckily, the weather didn't affect the Riverside Dip, Dabble and Picnic, which was held in Sunbury On Thames last month.

The event was arranged by Sunbury Village and Teddington WIs to raise awareness of this year's Resolution, Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife.

The day was a great success – well done to all involved. More details and photos inside the newsletter – and well done to all who went for a “dip” in the river!

Last month, I was also pleased to attend the Hayes, Harlington, Iver, West Drayton and Hillingdon Group Meeting and celebration of WI Day. We all had a fantastic time; we played Skittles, tested our brains in a quiz and had to guess the identity of some childhood photos of some of their members. Unfortunately, the only one I could guess was of Georgina, our Federation Secretary. She hasn't changed a bit!



A great photo of the co-organisers of the River dip, dabble and picnic event, Sian Cooley, Teddington and Debbie Levy, Sunbury Village with our own Treasurer, Sarah Endersby all together supporting the resolution of Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife.

Read more on page 5



Federation Chair Angela Chessman cutting the cake at the Hayes and Harlington Group meeting in September

Group Meetings are a fantastic way to get together with your neighbouring WIs and have some fun! I hope to be able to attend some more in the future.

As Autumn approaches, we are starting to plan for next year. A date for your diary is 25th March 2024, when we will be holding the Middlesex Federation Annual Council Meeting.

As we had such good feedback last year, we have decided to return to Questors Theatre in Ealing. I do hope you will join us – we had a great time last year and our speakers were excellent.

It's a good opportunity to meet up with your colleagues from across the Federation and celebrate all that is good in the WI.

We are also hoping to revive the 'Chair's Challenge'. The idea is that we would like you to create a design for a new Federation tablecloth. More information will be sent to your secretaries, but we are looking for you to design a central focus for the front of the cloth.

Please start thinking about it, you won't have to do the sewing, just the design!

Have a good month.

Angela

Newsletter deadlines >>> see page 2

WI BIRTHDAYS



*Happy birthday to our WI
celebrating in October*

HA	1 October 2012
Stow Roses	02 October 2013
Ashford Evening	03 October 1984
The Alexandra	05 October 2010
Stone Rangers	08 October 2014

Greeneffelde	09 October 1956
Hanwell	09 October 2013
Bedfont Belles	10 October 2014
Shoreditch Sisters	11 October 2007
Hampton	11 October 2011
West Hampstead	13 October 2011
West Drayton	14 October 1919
Halliford	16 October 1922
Pinner	16 October 1968
Laleham	22 October 1935
N1	24 October 2006
Manor Farm	27 October 1972
Twickenham	27 October 1988

200+ CLUB

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

September 2023

- 1st prize - £40
Margaret Moore, Sunbury-on-Thames
- 2nd prize - £30
Fiona Bird, Stanwell
- 3rd prize - £20
Sheila Clifford, Southbourne
- 4th prize - £10
Chris Hitchens, Sunbury-on-Thames

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@mfw.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

- * Nov 2023 issue: 20 Oct
- * Dec 2023 issue: 17 Nov
- * Feb 2024 issue: 19 Jan

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.

A note from Emma Watson

As most of you are aware, I've been editing the MFWI newsletter for over four years, having taken on the role in April 2019. This edition is my fiftieth edition (yes, 50!), and marks a handover to our Federation Secretary Georgina Glynn (George), who will be taking over newsletter production. As we make this transition, I'll be here to give a helping hand as the process is bedded in, but from this issue on, George is in charge!

Both George and I have access to the Newsletter email account and there is no change to how you will submit information, or to deadlines. To make George's life easier, please try to keep your submissions to 150 words, and send photos at their original size, as separate attachments wherever possible.



I'm sure you'll welcome George to this role and we both thank you for your patience as she gets to grips with the newsletter.

Whilst the workload of the newsletter is not something I will miss (my friends are frankly

sick of hearing, "Sorry, I have a newsletter to finish!"), I have very much enjoyed the interaction I have with all of you, and I do feel I've got to know so many members, many of whom I've still not met in person. It continues to be a wonderful way to keep up with the goings-on in the Federation. Thank you all for your ongoing support of our Federation and the newsletter in particular.

George already has some fresh new ideas for future newsletters and I certainly look forward to seeing them!

Finally, I'm still on the Board of Trustees, and available at emmawatson@mfwl.org.uk, and continue to provide support via digitalteam@mfwl.org.uk for all tech queries.

Very warm wishes

- Emma

West Drayton

Kay Crone

During the lovely hot week at the beginning of the month, West Drayton WI had a trip to Oaken Grove Vineyard near Henley-on-Thames for a private tour and wine tasting. We were told about the different grape varieties, how the grapevines are cultivated, the wine making process and the landscape of the English wine industry.

Two of the sparkling wines we tasted had recently won Gold and Silver awards, and were certainly a match for other more well-known wines. This family run vineyard is a small-scale, high-quality business, and the

personal attention we were given was outstanding.

We were encouraged to ask questions throughout, and as the wine tasting progressed, so the laughter and general chat increased. Finally, there was an opportunity to purchase wines from their shop at a special discounted price, and the minibus brought us home with the sound of wine bottles gently rattling in their carriers!

It was unanimously agreed that we had a wonderful time, definitely a place worth visiting.



Southbourne

Jackie Head

On the sunny morning of Wednesday 23rd August, some of us took a trip to The Church Gardens, Harefield. It is situated just behind the church which has the Anzac graves.

The whole area is hidden away and absolutely beautiful. We had arranged a guided tour which was fascinating. Kay does almost all the gardening herself and it has been a restoration project. You can find all the details online.

Our September meeting took place on a rather hot evening. Unfortunately, our guest

speaker was unable to attend but instead, we had a lovely time doing a long quiz and bingo with prizes. The craft group displayed the variety of work that they have completed to give a taste of all the things they do.



N1

Clare Taylor

N1WI had a cake stall at the Angel Canal Festival, and what a day for a festival!

Hot, sunny, and beautiful weather encouraged lots of people to come out and our cakes and biscuits proved very popular: thank you to all the cooks – Joan, Lesley H, Lesley R and Louise. My contributions were vegan and/or gluten-free, as at the previous stall quite a few people were asking for them, particularly dairy-free (which, of course, vegan food is) and they seemed a good call.



A group of Pearlies came by and proved entertaining, especially the baby Pearl Prince.

Being beside the water made a natural link for our information about rivers and preventing plastics pollution; there was plenty of interest from visitors who didn't know about us.

We've had one meeting focused on learning about river pollution and what we can do, and two of our members, Clare, and Sandra, have been involved in pulling together a film plus panel discussion evening on the topic as part of a group they are both volunteers with, so we displayed the poster for that.



Sunbury on Thames

Barbara Draper

Over the summer Sunbury on Thames WI has been as busy as ever. We held an afternoon tea and a coffee morning. A trip to Hoxton Museum was less of a success, and quite a distance to seems it was a long way to travel.

Nick Pollard, a local historian, entertained us with a lecture on bridges from Staines to Kingston, there were certainly a great number! All most interesting but I personally found it difficult to digest so many dates!

The annual trip this year, a river cruise with cream tea was well attended and really enjoyable. The weather was not the height of summer, but the odd shower didn't affect us as we were under cover.



Laleham

Chris Walker

Members swapped their traditional meeting in August for a day out at the seaside. Fortunately we picked a beautiful day for the trip to Eastbourne and so were able to enjoy leisurely walks along the front and trips on the wheel before heading to a seafront hotel for a lovely afternoon tea.

Also, over the summer Laleham WI joined forces with Laleham Good Neighbours and held a joint afternoon tea in aid of Breast Cancer Now. Refreshments included homemade cakes and the event raised nearly £300 for the charity.



Stone Rangers

Helen Fisher

In August we held our annual summer party in the lovely garden of our Vice President, Carmela. The weather was kind to us, and we had a great time chatting, eating a wonderful selection of cakes and savoury bakes made by our baking group and drinking Pimm's in the sunshine.

There was a plant and crafts sale and a special raffle with some brilliant prizes donated by local friends and sponsors. Due to the generosity of our members, we raised a fantastic £800 for our charity of the year, the Waltham Forest Samaritans. A fun and worthwhile afternoon!



Halliford

Liz Davies

We have had a busy spring and summer. Our local 'Men in Sheds' kindly made us a plaque for our 100-year commemoration tree which has been erected. We've had numerous fun times which included a race night with appropriate headwear for 'Ascot', a guided

tour of the magnificent Syon House and a trip to Kensington Palace to the Crown to Couture exhibition. An enjoyable time at Bombay Sapphire with sample tasters. Some of our members opened their gardens for afternoon teas and boat trips which were well attended.

We have enjoyed numerous quality and informative speakers for our monthly meetings, our weekly walks and picnics still run and through all these activities we share fellowship and friendship which is at the heart of our association.



SUNBURY SONGBIRDS

POP Rock Musicals

LADIES CHOIR - SINGING FOR FUN

We meet once a fortnight on a Monday night 8pm - 9pm to sing popular songs, no auditions required.

- £4 per session, paid termly upfront
- £5 drop in

Our choir is affiliated to Sunbury Village WI, non WI members are also welcome

COME ALONG TO OUR FREE OPEN EVENING
MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER 8-9PM

St Mary's Parish Hall, Green Street,
Sunbury TW16 6RN
RSVP: sunburyvillage@gmail.com



Teddington and Sunbury Village

Sian Cooley and Debbie Levy

In support of the Week of River Action, a riverside dip, dabble and picnic was hosted by the Sunbury Village and Teddington WIs. Nearly 50 people (and one dog!) came along for a social event including swimming and paddling in the Thames.

After congregating on the Green, and adding contributions to the growing cake table, attendees were welcomed and given instructions and advice on how to use the river safely.

There were plenty of spare equipment and even a river lifeguard to inspire confidence. Local swimming groups including the Teddington Bluetits were there to support and encourage new or nervous swimmers,



and it was wonderful to see all the WI members taking to it like the proverbial ducks!

The river was also being used to capacity, with river boats, canoes, and paddleboarders out



on the water. A strong reminder of how people love the river, and how vital it is to maintain and improve its water quality.

Non swimmers watched from the shade, enjoying the cakes and picnics they had brought along.

It was a fabulous afternoon with friends old and new, and a great way of bringing the aims of this year's national resolution to life.

We all want 'Clean Rivers, for people and Wildlife', and we want them today and forever!

Stanwell

Marilyn Rix

August was a very busy month for Stanwell WI.

We held a croquet competition at Runnymede, followed by a picnic, and were lucky to have beautiful weather. Mary Newstead won, returning to her normal winning form. What a fantastic afternoon we had with ladies from Harlington WI, playing croquet in the sun followed by afternoon tea and Pimm's. Carol Sullivan and Dianne Butler were joint winners of the matches played at our Pimm's afternoon.

Mary Jeffery organised a garden party, attended by 60 ladies. Thank you Bedford Belles for your support, raising money for Cruse charity. It happened to be Mary's birthday, and hoped she got to celebrate later as she worked so hard along with her friends and family to make the day a success.



A few of our ladies went to see *Barbie* at Staines Vue: reviews were mixed. Another group went to Lyme Regis for the day, and another to Buckingham Palace.

We started a book club meeting at Notcutts for coffee and chat to discuss our thoughts on our first read, and our walking group met at Lamm Park for a third walk.

Our September Meeting was a very interesting talk on the National Garden Scheme by Annabel Alford-Warren. Didn't realise what wonderful, interesting gardens there are to visit within a few miles.

We ended the evening by having a raffle for McMillan. We had 52 prizes and delicious cakes on sale. The raffle raised £200 and the cake sale £80. Well done ladies!



Hayes & Harlington Group Meeting

Gill Wildman, Hayes Town

Our group meeting was held, appropriately, on the 108th birthday of the WI, at Hayes & Harlington Community Centre. With members, trustees, and guests from, Harlington, Hayes Town, West Drayton, Iwer, Stanwell, Greenford, and West Ealing WIs all showing up. It was a fun afternoon with ladies showing their skittles techniques, a 'Who are

You' photo competition, and a quiz provided by Jo Johnson. The main competition was for candlestick design with a 'dragonfly' theme set to promote our Clean Rivers resolution. This was won by Shirley Vick, (HTWI), with Anna East (Harlington) second, and Marion Batchelor (NTWI) third.

It's the first time Hayes Town have won the candlesticks, which President Linda Lawrence was proud to receive. There was a raffle with craft items from Kay Crone and Anna East.



The WI tradition of tea and homemade cakes of course took place, with everyone taking home a slice of WI birthday cake.

Many thanks to Lesley Daly and helpers for all their hard work in the kitchen and at committee meetings. The 2024 group meeting will be hosted by Harlington WI.



Harrow on the Hill

Rosie Oria

On Sunday 13th August, we hosted a summer party for our 10th anniversary. We had a great turn out and a marvellous spread.

Many of our members cooked and baked, with a wide selection on offer from smoked salmon and cream cheese sandwiches, bhajis, Spanish omelettes and peanut biscuits to homemade scones and delicious cakes.

The prosecco was flowing, and the playlist set the mood. We were very lucky with a beautiful sunny and dry summer day, so we could sit outside, graze away and bask in the warm sunshine. We even had local dogs Serafina and Cosima come join us!

The cherry on the cake was that one of our founding members, Tracy Lunt-Simcock, came back to cut the anniversary cake with our president Eileen and toast this special occasion with our current members and their partners. It was a lovely day enjoyed by all.



Bedfont Belles

Jenny Hanrahan

Fish and chips from our local fish and chip shop made a very filling start to our September meeting. They were delicious!

Jean, our treasurer, organised a brain teasing quiz based on Scattergories, and Anne won the prize for the highest number of points.

Members were very brave when a tarantula walked across the floor (slight exaggeration) just before the end of the quiz.

The Social Committee of Fairholme Hall, where we hold our meetings, invited us for a cream tea. Homemade scones and jam accompanied by clotted cream and plentiful tea and coffee made it a very pleasant afternoon ending with a raffle.

Our September outing was a river trip from Westminster to Greenwich. The weather was great when we left. Not so great later. Some of us got wetter than others but it didn't spoil a great day out.

Ruislip

Sandy Channon

Our September meeting had an excellent interactive talk from our Safer Neighbourhood Team. With many women afraid to go out alone, especially in the evening, Lisanne, Richard, John, and AJ from the SNT gave practical advice and demonstrated how to defend yourself in various situations.

Our ladies were invited to try out different self-defence techniques on Richard and most of our ladies went away feeling a little safer with the knowledge of how to defend themselves without putting themselves at unnecessary risk. For instance, did you know that pressing the side button on an iPhone five times brings up the emergency services screen? We even managed to fit in a produce table, tea and delicious cakes made by Helen and Maureen and a 'Rust' theme for our pennies competition.

Our book club arranged a delicious afternoon tea at the Barn Hotel before it sadly closes at the end of September—we will miss this historic venue and hope that, as it is a listed building, it might be saved to continue serving our local community. They are also arranging a sponsored walk around the Lido on September 24th in aid of our charity. For a donation to our charity, Lesley gave a few members a breadmaking masterclass where she showed us how to make delicious bread, rolls and soda bread.



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

Around the WIs

Harrow on the Hill

Mary O'Connor

In September, our member Caroline Kearns
gave a thought-provoking, topical talk on
sustainability and climate change.
She explained common terminology such as
carbon neutral and net zero, how companies
measure and reduce their carbon footprint
and we discussed how to reduce emissions at
home.

In 2020, Caroline led the carbon neutral
project for the accountancy body,
ICAEW. Projects to offset its carbon included
supporting new water treatment plants in
Cambodia and biogas cooking stoves in
Vietnam. Both had hugely positive impacts for

women locally e.g. reducing the need to walk
for hours to fetch and boil water. Many were
instead gaining employment at the facilities
making the stoves and terracotta water
filtration systems.

The talk's key message was that nature holds
significant solutions to climate change and
carbon capture so get involved with
supporting your local biodiversity.



Hayes Town

Gill Wildman

Hayes Town member Penny Shervill has
received a letter from Buckingham Palace, on
behalf of HRH
The Princess
Royal, thanking
her for her
homemade
card and letter
on her
involvement in
our Hayes
Town WI
activities.
Well done
Penny!

